

# **Benzylation of Nitroalkanes Using Copper-Catalyzed Thermal Redox Catalysis: Toward the Facile C-Alkylation of Nitroalkanes**

Peter G. Gildner, Amber A. S. Gietter, Di Cui, and Donald A. Watson

*Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Delaware,*

*Newark, Delaware 19716*

## **Supporting Information**

Index:	Page
1. General Experimental Details	S2
2. Instrumentation and Chromatography	S2
3. Additional Optimization of $\beta$ -Diketiminato Ligands	S3
4. General Protocols for Nitroalkylation	S3
5. Benzylation of Nitroalkanes	S4
6. References	S15
7. Spectral Data	S16

**1. General Experimental Details.** Toluene and dioxane were dried on alumina according to published procedures.<sup>1</sup> Hexanes and benzene were purchased in an anhydrous septa sealed bottle. Copper bromide and sodium *tert*-butoxide were purchased commercially; the bulk was stored in a nitrogen filled glovebox; samples were removed from the glovebox and stored in a desiccator under air for up to one week prior to use. All hot glassware was oven dried for a minimum of two hours or flame-dried under vacuum prior to use.  $\beta$ -Diketiminato ligand **4** was synthesized according to a published procedure.<sup>2</sup> Substrates 8-(bromomethyl)-quinoline<sup>3</sup>, 2-(bromomethyl)thiophene<sup>4</sup>, 2-bromomethyl-benzooxazole<sup>5</sup>, 2-methyl-1-nitropropane<sup>6</sup>, and 4-nitro-1-butene<sup>7</sup>, methyl-4-nitrobutyrate<sup>8</sup>, N,N-dimethyl-4-nitro-butanamide<sup>9</sup>, 4-nitrobutyl acetate<sup>10</sup>, nitrocyclohexane<sup>11</sup>, and methyl 4-nitropentanoate<sup>12</sup> were prepared according to the literature procedure. All other substrates and reagents were purchased in highest analytical purity from commercial suppliers and used as received. Ligand optimization reactions reported in Table 2 were carried out in a glovebox (N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere) on a 500  $\mu$ mol scale in 16 mm X 100 mm threaded test tubes sealed with Teflon lined caps and were heated in an aluminum block-heater with stirring. Product yields in Table 2 obtained by NMR unless otherwise noted. Product yields in Table S1 obtained by GC with dodecane as an internal standard. All other reactions, except that producing nitroalkane **38**, were set up using Schlenk technique and heated with stirring in temperature controlled oil baths. "Double manifold" refers to a standard Schlenk-line gas manifold equipped with nitrogen and vacuum (ca. 100 mtorr).

**2. Instrumentation and Chromatography.** 400 MHz <sup>1</sup>H, 101 MHz <sup>13</sup>C, and 376 MHz <sup>19</sup>F spectra were obtained on a 400 MHz FT-NMR spectrometer equipped with a Bruker CryoPlatform. 600 MHz <sup>1</sup>H and 151 MHz <sup>13</sup>C spectra were obtained on a 600 MHz FT-NMR spectrometer equipped with a Bruker SMART probe. <sup>13</sup>C spectra were recorded using Attached Proton Test phase pulse sequence; carbons with an odd number of protons are phased down and those with an even number of protons are phased up.<sup>13</sup> All samples were analyzed in the indicated deuterio-solvent and were recorded at ambient temperatures. Chemical shifts are reported in ppm. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were calibrated using the residual protio-signal in deuterio-solvents as a standard. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were calibrated using the deuterio-solvent as a standard. IR spectra were recorded on an FT-IR spectrometer as thin films. Unless otherwise noted, column chromatography was performed with 40-63  $\mu$ m silica gel with the eluent reported in parentheses. In specially marked reactions 5-20  $\mu$ m silica gel was used to improve separation. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on precoated glass plates and visualized by UV or by staining with KMnO<sub>4</sub>. GC samples were run on a Shimadzu GC 2010 Plus using a Thermo Scientific TR-1 column (10m X 0.1mm, ID 0.1 $\mu$ m film). All reported GC yields are corrected using dodecane as an internal standard. All NMR yields are reported using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene or hexamethylbenzene as an internal standard. GCMS data was collected using an Agilent 6850 series GC and 5973 MS detector. Low resolution ESI data was collected on a Thermo LCQ Advantage running in positive ion mode. High resolution mass spectrometry data was obtained at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Yields reported in tables of main text reflect the average isolated yields of at least two independent runs; any deviation between these yields and those reported in this supporting information reflect the difference between individual and average yields.

**3. Additional Optimization of  $\beta$ -Diketiminato Ligands.** Outlined in Table S1 is the series of experiments aimed at the optimization of the  $\beta$ -diketiminato ligand in the copper catalyzed nitroalkane benzylation reaction. Although a range of substituents were explored on both the nitrogen-aryl substituents, as well as the 1,3-diketone backbone, none of these derivatives proved more successful than the 2,6-dimethyl aniline derived ligand **4**. Due to its ease of synthesis and low cost, ligand **4** was selected as the ligand for further optimization (see main text). Synthesis of ligands **4**, **S1**, and **S4-S19** were carried out via the condensation of the appropriate 1,3 diketones and the corresponding aniline using a Dean-Stark condensor as described in the literature<sup>2</sup>. All reactions were run under air with the exception of **S10**, which was run under N<sub>2</sub>. Ligands **S2**<sup>14</sup> and **S3**<sup>15</sup> were prepared by modification of published procedures.

**Table S1. Ligand Optimization.**

Entry	Ligand	R	R'	Ar	yield (%) <sup>a</sup>
1	<b>4</b>	Me	H	2,6-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	77
2	<b>S1</b> <sup>b,c</sup>	Et	H	2,6-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	76
3	<b>S2</b> <sup>b,c</sup>	<sup>i</sup> Pr	H	2,6-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	80
4	<b>S3</b> <sup>b,d</sup>	<sup>t</sup> Bu	H	2,6-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	40
5	<b>S4</b> <sup>b,e</sup>	Ph	H	2,6-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	4
6	<b>S5</b> <sup>b,e</sup>	Me	H	2-OMe-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	44
7	<b>S6</b>	Me	H	2,6- <sup>i</sup> Pr-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	44
8	<b>S7</b> <sup>b</sup>	Me	Me	2,6-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	69
9	<b>S8</b> <sup>b,f</sup>	Me	H	2,6-Et-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	78
10	<b>S9</b> <sup>b</sup>	Me	H	2,6-Me, 4-OMe-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	79
11	<b>S10</b>	Me	H	2,4,6-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	80
12	<b>S11</b>	Me	H	2-CF <sub>3</sub> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	37
13	<b>S12</b> <sup>b</sup>	Me	H	2-OCF <sub>3</sub> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	64
14	<b>S13</b>	Me	H	2-Me, 4-OMe-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	64
15	<b>S14</b>	Me	H	2,4,6-OMe-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>2</sub>	47
16	<b>S15</b> <sup>b,e</sup>	Me	H	2-Me-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	55
17	<b>S16</b>	Me	H	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub>	28
18	<b>S17</b>	Me	H	4-OMe-C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	33
19	<b>S18</b>	Me	H	4-CF <sub>3</sub> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	18
20	<b>S19</b>	Me	H	3,5-CF <sub>3</sub> -C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	17

<sup>a</sup> All yields determined by GC with internal standard. <sup>b</sup> Toluene [0.17M] used as solvent.

<sup>c</sup> Reaction time 28 h. <sup>d</sup> Reaction time 17 h. <sup>e</sup> Reaction time 12 h. <sup>f</sup> Reaction time 20 h.

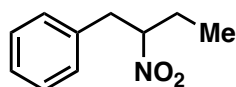
#### 4. General Protocols for Nitroalkylation.

**General Protocol A. Synthesis of Nitroalkanes with Liquid Benzyl Bromide Substrates:** A hot 25 mL Schlenk flask equipped with magnetic stir bar and rubber septum was attached to a double manifold and cooled under vacuum. The flask was backfilled with N<sub>2</sub>, the septum was removed, and CuBr (0.2 equiv), ligand **4** (0.25 equiv), and base (1.2 equiv) were added. The septum was replaced, the flask was attached to a double manifold, and evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen five times. Anhydrous solvent (6 mL), the nitroalkane (1.25 equiv), and the benzyl bromide (1.0 equiv) were added to the

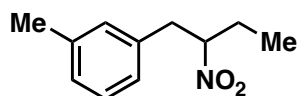
flask sequentially via syringe. The resulting suspension was heated in a 60 °C oil bath with rapid stirring for the indicated time. The reactor was cooled to rt, the flask was opened to air and the reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (20 mL). The solution was washed twice with saturated ammonium chloride (25 mL) and once with brine (25 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. The product was purified by silica gel flash chromatography.

**General Protocol B.** Synthesis of Nitroalkanes with Solid Benzyl Bromide Substrates: A hot 25 mL Schlenk flask equipped with magnetic stir bar and rubber septum was attached to a double manifold and cooled under vacuum. The flask was backfilled with N<sub>2</sub>, the septum was removed, and CuBr (0.2 equiv), ligand **4** (0.25 equiv), base (1.2 equiv), and the benzyl bromide (1.0 equiv) were added. The septum was replaced, the flask was attached to a double manifold, and evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen five times. Anhydrous solvent (6 mL) and the nitroalkane (1.25 equiv) were added to the flask sequentially via syringe. The resulting suspension was heated in a 60 °C oil bath with rapid stirring for the indicated time. The reactor was cooled to rt, the flask was opened to air and the reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (20 mL). The solution was washed twice with saturated ammonium chloride (25 mL) and once with brine (25 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. The product was purified by silica gel flash chromatography.

## 5. Benzylation of Nitroalkanes.

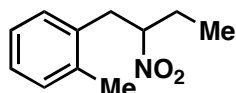


(**7**). According to general protocol A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200 μmol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250 μmol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112 μL, 1.25 mmol), and benzyl bromide (120 μL, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid → 100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **7** (153 mg, 85%) as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.34 – 7.23 (m, 3H), 7.20 – 7.12 (m, 2H), 4.63 (dddd, *J* = 9.7, 8.4, 5.9, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.03 (ddq, *J* = 14.5, 9.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (dq, *J* = 14.8, 7.5, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 0.99 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 135.8, 128.98, 128.95, 127.5, 91.5, 39.9, 27.0, 10.4; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2975, 1549, 1456, 1374, 749, 699; GC/MS (EI) 179.2 (M)<sup>+</sup>, 132.2 (M-HNO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (EI) *m/z*, calculated for [C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>13</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 179.0946; found: 179.0936.

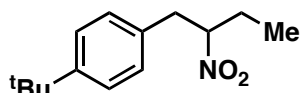


(**9**). According to general protocol A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200 μmol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250 μmol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112 μL, 1.25 mmol), and 3-methylbenzyl bromide (135 μL, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid → 100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **9** (164 mg, 85%) as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.07 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.62 (dddd, *J* = 9.7, 8.1, 5.9, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.23 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (dd, *J* = 14.1, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.33 (s, 3H), 2.02 (ddq, *J* = 14.6, 9.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (dq, *J* = 14.8, 7.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 0.98 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 138.6, 135.7, 129.8, 128.8, 128.2, 126.0, 91.6, 39.8, 27.0, 21.5, 10.4; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2975, 2936, 1550, 1459, 1374, 782, 700; GC/MS (EI) 193.3

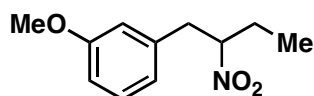
(M)<sup>+</sup>, 146.2 (M-HNO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (EI) m/z, calculated for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 193.1103; found: 193.1086.



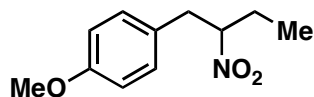
**(10).** According to general protocol A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200 μmol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250 μmol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112 μL, 1.25 mmol), and 2-methylbenzyl bromide (134 μL, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid → 100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **10** (164 mg, 85%) as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.19 – 7.11 (m, 3H), 7.08 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 4.62 (dddd, J = 10.0, 8.3, 6.1, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.28 (dd, J = 14.4, 8.3 Hz, 1H), 3.06 (dd, J = 14.4, 6.2 Hz, 1H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 2.06 (ddq, J = 14.6, 9.6, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (dq, J = 14.8, 7.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 0.99 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 136.3, 134.0, 130.8, 129.8, 127.6, 126.5, 90.4, 37.3, 27.0, 19.5, 10.5; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2974, 2937, 1550, 1458, 1373, 745; GC/MS (EI) 193.3 (M)<sup>+</sup>, 146.2 (M-HNO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (EI) m/z, calculated for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 193.1103; found: 193.1111.



**(11).** According to general protocol A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200 μmol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250 μmol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112 μL, 1.25 mmol), and 4-(*tert*-butyl)benzyl bromide (184 μL, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid → 100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **11** (196 mg, 83%) as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.35 – 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.12 – 7.06 (m, 2H), 4.62 (dddd, J = 9.7, 8.6, 6.0, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (dd, J = 14.2, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (dd, J = 14.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.01 (ddq, J = 14.6, 9.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (dq, J = 14.8, 7.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 1.30 (s, 9H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 150.4, 132.7, 128.7, 125.9, 91.5, 39.4, 34.6, 31.4, 27.0, 10.4; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2966, 2870, 1551, 1458, 1373; GC/MS (EI) 235.2 (M)<sup>+</sup>, 188.2 (M-HNO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (EI) m/z, calculated for [C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 235.1572; found: 235.1557.

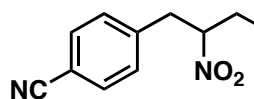


**(12).** According to general protocol A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200 μmol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250 μmol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112 μL, 1.25 mmol), and 3-methoxybenzyl bromide (140 μL, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid → 100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **12** (171 mg, 82%) as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.22 (t, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.80 (ddd, J = 8.3, 2.6, 0.8 Hz, 1H), 6.75 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.69 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 1H), 4.63 (dddd, J = 9.7, 8.3, 6.0, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 3.24 (dd, J = 14.1, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (dd, J = 14.1, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.01 (ddq, J = 14.6, 9.8, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (dq, J = 14.8, 7.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 159.9, 137.3, 130.0, 121.2, 114.8, 112.7, 91.4, 55.3, 39.9, 27.0, 10.4; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2972, 2935, 1548, 1263, 1155, 1042, 781, 696; GC/MS (EI) 209.2 (M)<sup>+</sup>, 162.2 (M-HNO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (EI) m/z, calculated for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 209.1052; found: 209.1058.

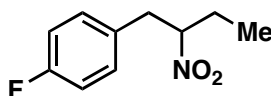


**(13).** According to general protocol A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200 μmol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250 μmol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115

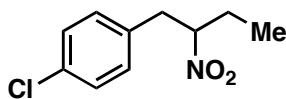
mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112  $\mu$ L, 1.25 mmol), and 4-methoxybenzyl bromide (146  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol) were combined under  $N_2$  and heated at 60  $^{\circ}$ C with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:2:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:2 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **13** (141 mg, 67%) as a clear oil:  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.07 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.83 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.58 (dddd,  $J$  = 9.7, 8.6, 5.8, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.19 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 2.97 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 5.8 Hz, 1H), 2.07 – 1.94 (m, 1H), 1.83 (dq,  $J$  = 14.8, 7.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 0.97 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  158.9, 130.0, 127.7, 114.3, 91.8, 55.4, 39.1, 26.9, 10.4; FTIR ( $cm^{-1}$ ): 2972, 1548, 1514, 1249, 1179, 1034; GC/MS (EI) 209.2 ( $M$ ) $^+$ , 162.2 ( $M-HNO_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[C_{11}H_{15}NO_3]^+$ : 209.1052; found: 209.1057.



**(14)**. According to general protocol B: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112  $\mu$ L, 1.25 mmol), and 4-cyanobenzyl bromide (196 mg, 1.0 mmol) were combined under  $N_2$  and heated at 60  $^{\circ}$ C with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:10:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:10 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **14** (147 mg, 72%) as a white solid (97% pure with trace bibenzyl byproduct): mp = 40–41  $^{\circ}$ C;  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.60 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 4.63 (tt,  $J$  = 9.4, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (dd,  $J$  = 14.4, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd,  $J$  = 14.4, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.11 – 1.97 (m, 1H), 1.86 (dq,  $J$  = 14.7, 7.4, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 1.00 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  141.2, 132.8, 129.8, 118.6, 111.6, 90.8, 39.6, 27.3, 10.3; FTIR ( $cm^{-1}$ ): 2975, 2229, 1548, 1373, 863, 564; GC/MS (EI) 157.2 ( $M-HNO_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (CI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[C_{11}H_{13}N_2O_2]^+$ : 205.0977; found: 205.0982.

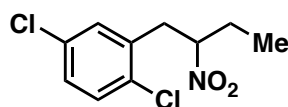


**(15)**. According to general protocol A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112  $\mu$ L, 1.25 mmol), and 4-fluorobenzyl bromide (125  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol) were combined under  $N_2$  and heated at 60  $^{\circ}$ C with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **15** (165 mg, 83%) as a clear oil:  $^1H$  NMR (400 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  7.15 – 7.09 (m, 2H), 7.03 – 6.95 (m, 2H), 4.63 – 4.55 (m, 1H), 3.22 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.01 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (ddq,  $J$  = 14.6, 9.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (dq,  $J$  = 14.8, 7.5, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 0.99 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}C$  NMR (101 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  162.2 (d,  $J$  = 245.9 Hz), 131.5 (d,  $J$  = 3.3 Hz), 130.5 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz), 115.9 (d,  $J$  = 21.4 Hz), 91.6, 39.0, 27.0, 10.4;  $^{19}F$  NMR (376 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ )  $\delta$  -115.0 – -115.2 (m); FTIR ( $cm^{-1}$ ): 2975, 1550, 1373, 1224, 825; GC/MS (EI) 196.9 ( $M$ ) $^+$ , 150.2 ( $M-HNO_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[C_{10}H_{12}NO_2F]^+$ : 197.0852; found: 197.0838.

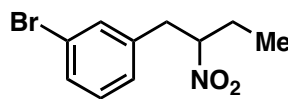


**(16)**. According to general protocol B: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112  $\mu$ L, 1.25 mmol), and 4-chlorobenzyl bromide (206 mg, 1.0 mmol) were combined under  $N_2$  and heated at 60  $^{\circ}$ C with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica

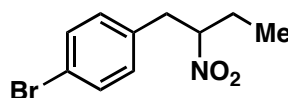
chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid → 100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **16** (169 mg, 79%) as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.28 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.09 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 4.63 – 4.55 (m, 1H), 3.22 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (ddq,  $J$  = 14.6, 9.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (dq,  $J$  = 14.8, 7.5, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 0.99 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  134.2, 133.5, 130.3, 129.1, 91.3, 39.1, 27.0, 10.4; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2975, 1549, 1493, 1374, 1094, 1016, 805; GC/MS (EI) 166.2 ( $\text{M}-\text{HNO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_2\text{Cl}]^+$ : 213.0556; found: 213.0546.



(**17**). According to general protocol B: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.25 mmol), and 2,5-dichlorobenzyl bromide (240 mg, 1.0 mmol) were combined under  $\text{N}_2$  and heated at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$  with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid → 100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **17** (207 mg, 84%) as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.31 (d,  $J$  = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20 (dd,  $J$  = 8.5, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d,  $J$  = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (ddd,  $J$  = 14.0, 9.0, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.30 – 3.17 (m, 2H), 2.13 – 2.01 (m, 1H), 1.95 – 1.82 (m, 1H), 1.02 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  135.3, 133.1, 132.4, 131.3, 131.0, 129.3, 89.1, 37.3, 27.4, 10.4; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2975, 1550, 1471, 1373, 1098, 815; GC/MS (EI) 247.2 ( $\text{M}$ ) $^+$ , 200.1 ( $\text{M}-\text{HNO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{NO}_2\text{Cl}_2]^+$ : 247.0167; found: 247.0148.

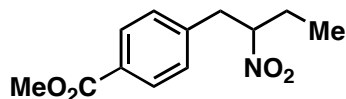


(**18**). According to general protocol B: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), 3-bromobenzyl bromide (250 mg, 1.0 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL) and 1-nitropropane (112  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.25 mmol) were combined under  $\text{N}_2$  and heated at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$  with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid → 100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **18** (212 mg, 82%) as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.40 (ddd,  $J$  = 8.0, 1.7, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.32 (t,  $J$  = 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.12 – 7.05 (m, 1H), 4.66 – 4.56 (m, 1H), 3.23 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 8.9 Hz, 1H), 3.00 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (ddq,  $J$  = 14.6, 9.3, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (dq,  $J$  = 14.8, 7.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 0.99 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  138.0, 132.0, 130.7, 130.5, 127.6, 122.9, 91.1, 39.3, 27.1, 10.4; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2975, 1549, 1374, 1073, 780, 693; GC/MS (EI) 257.1 ( $\text{M}$ ) $^+$ , 210.1 ( $\text{M}-\text{HNO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_2\text{Br}]^+$ : 257.0051; found: 257.0057.

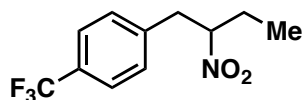


(**19**). According to general protocol B: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.25 mmol), and 4-bromobenzyl bromide (250 mg, 1.0 mmol) were combined under  $\text{N}_2$  and heated at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$  with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid → 100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **19** (210 mg, 81%) as a white solid: mp = 55–56  $^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.43 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.03 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.64 – 4.54 (m, 1H), 3.21 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 2.99 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (ddq,  $J$  = 14.6, 9.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (dq,  $J$  =

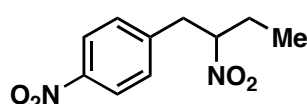
14.9, 7.6, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 0.99 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  134.7, 132.1, 130.7, 121.6, 91.2, 39.2, 27.1, 10.4; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2974, 1549, 1489, 1373, 1073, 1012, 801; GC/MS (EI) 257.0 ( $\text{M}^+$ ), 210.1 ( $\text{M}-\text{HNO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{12}\text{NO}_2\text{Br}]^+$ : 257.0051; found: 257.0067.



**(20).** According to general protocol B: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), sodium methoxide (64.8 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.25 mmol), and methyl 4-(bromomethyl)benzoate (229 mg, 1.0 mmol) were combined under  $\text{N}_2$  and heated at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$  with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:5:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:5 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **20** (206 mg, 87%) as a clear oil (96% pure with trace bibenzyl byproduct):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.98 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.69 – 4.60 (m, 1H), 3.92 (s, 3H), 3.31 (dd,  $J$  = 14.2, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd,  $J$  = 14.2, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.04 (ddq,  $J$  = 14.6, 9.3, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.85 (dq,  $J$  = 14.8, 7.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.00 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  167.2, 141.1, 130.3, 129.3, 129.1, 91.0, 52.4, 39.6, 27.1, 10.4; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2953, 1721, 1550, 1436, 1282, 1181, 1111; GC/MS (EI) 190.2 ( $\text{M}-\text{HNO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_4]^+$ : 237.1001; found: 237.1020.



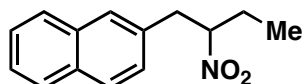
**(21).** According to general protocol A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.25 mmol), and 4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl bromide (155  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.0 mmol) were combined under  $\text{N}_2$  and heated at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$  with rapid stirring for 24 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **21** (200 mg, 81%) as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.57 (d,  $J$  = 8.1 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 4.69 – 4.60 (m, 1H), 3.32 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 9.1 Hz, 1H), 3.09 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (ddq,  $J$  = 14.6, 9.3, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.87 (dq,  $J$  = 14.8, 7.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.01 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  139.8 (q,  $J$  = 1.1 Hz), 130.1 (q,  $J$  = 32.7 Hz), 129.4, 125.9 (q,  $J$  = 3.8 Hz), 124.1 (q,  $J$  = 272.4 Hz), 91.0, 39.4, 27.2, 10.4;  $^{19}\text{F}$  NMR (376 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  -62.6 (s); FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1549, 1326, 1161, 1123, 1068, 863; GC/MS (EI) 200.2 ( $\text{M}-\text{HNO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{11}\text{F}_3]^+$ : 200.0813; found: 200.0821.



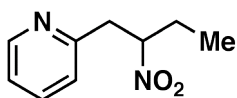
**(22).** According to general protocol B: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.25 mmol), and 4-nitrobenzyl bromide (216 mg, 1.0 mmol) were combined under  $\text{N}_2$  and heated at 60  $^\circ\text{C}$  with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:5:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:5 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **22** (163 mg, 72%) as a clear oil (97% pure with trace bibenzyl byproduct):  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.16 (d,  $J$  = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 4.67 (tt,  $J$  = 9.4, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (dd,  $J$  = 14.4, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 3.14 (dd,  $J$  = 14.4, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.07 (ddq,  $J$  = 14.6, 9.3, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.90 (dq,  $J$  = 14.8, 7.4, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 1.01 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  147.4, 143.2, 129.9, 124.2, 90.7, 39.3, 27.3, 10.3; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2976, 1606, 1549, 1520, 1348, 870; GC/MS (EI)



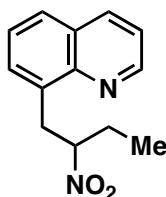
224.1 (M)<sup>+</sup>, 177.2 (M-HNO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (CI) m/z, calculated for [C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 225.0875; found: 225.0877.



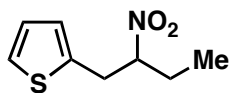
**(23)**. According to general protocol B: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200 μmol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250 μmol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112 μL, 1.25 mmol), and 2-(bromomethyl)naphthalene (221 mg, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 24 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1 hexanes : trifluoroacetic acid → 100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **23** (164 mg, 72%) as a yellow solid: mp = 59–60 °C; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.84 – 7.76 (m, 3H), 7.62 (s, 1H), 7.52 – 7.44 (m, 2H), 7.28 (dd, *J* = 8.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (dddd, *J* = 9.8, 8.6, 6.0, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 8.5 Hz, 1H), 3.20 (dd, *J* = 14.2, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.08 (ddq, *J* = 14.6, 9.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.89 (dq, *J* = 14.9, 7.5, 4.3 Hz, 1H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 133.5, 133.2, 132.6, 128.7, 127.9, 127.79, 127.78, 126.8, 126.5, 126.1, 91.4, 40.0, 27.0, 10.4; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2974, 1545, 1521, 1373, 817, 749; GC/MS (EI) 229.2 (M)<sup>+</sup>, 182.2 (M-HNO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (EI) m/z, calculated for [C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 229.1103; found: 229.1118.



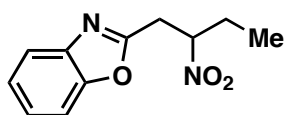
**(24)**. According to general protocol B: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200 μmol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250 μmol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (211 mg, 2.2 mmol), anhydrous benzene (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112 μL, 1.25 mmol), and 2-(bromomethyl)pyridine hydrobromide (253 mg, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 24 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography using 5-20 μm silica gel (100:10 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **24** (134 mg, 74%) as a pale yellow oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.54 (d, *J* = 4.0 Hz, 1H), 7.61 (td, *J* = 7.7, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.20 – 7.10 (m, 2H), 5.03 (tt, *J* = 9.3, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 3.44 (dd, *J* = 14.6, 9.3 Hz, 1H), 3.17 (dd, *J* = 14.6, 4.8 Hz, 1H), 2.05 (tt, *J* = 15.5, 7.4 Hz, 1H), 1.92 (dp, *J* = 14.6, 7.5, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 1.01 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 156.1, 149.8, 136.9, 123.8, 122.4, 89.4, 41.2, 27.4, 10.3; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2974, 1592, 1549, 1476, 1439, 1375, 759; GC/MS (EI) 134.1 (M-NO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (CI) m/z, calculated for [C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 181.0977; found: 181.0982.



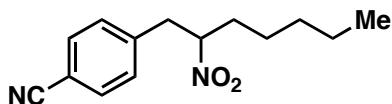
**(25)**. According to general protocol B: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200 μmol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250 μmol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112 μL, 1.25 mmol), and 8-(bromomethyl)-quinoline (222 mg, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 24 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography using 5-20 μm silica gel (50:50 benzene : petroleum ether) to afford nitroalkane **25** (157 mg, 68%) as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 8.91 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 8.15 (dd, *J* = 8.3, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.74 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 1H), 7.47 – 7.39 (m, 2H), 5.14 (tt, *J* = 9.3, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 3.94 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 4.6 Hz, 1H), 3.56 (dd, *J* = 13.6, 9.6 Hz, 1H), 2.13 (ddq, *J* = 14.6, 9.4, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.99 (dq, *J* = 14.7, 7.5, 4.4 Hz, 1H), 1.02 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 149.8, 146.6, 136.6, 134.5, 130.5, 128.5, 127.9, 126.4, 121.4, 91.0, 36.5, 27.7, 10.5; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2970, 1547, 1499, 1373, 858, 794; GC/MS (EI) 230.1 (M)<sup>+</sup>, 184.1 (M-NO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (EI) m/z, calculated for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>14</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 230.1055; found: 230.1046.



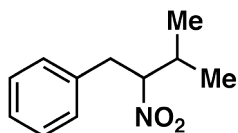
**(26).** According to general protocol A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous dioxane (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112  $\mu$ L, 1.25 mmol), and 2-(bromomethyl)thiophene (110  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 24 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:2:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:2 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **26** (80 mg, 43%) as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.19 (dd, *J* = 5.2, 1.1 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.86 – 6.82 (m, 1H), 4.69 – 4.59 (m, 1H), 3.51 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 8.6 Hz, 1H), 3.24 (dd, *J* = 15.2, 5.5 Hz, 1H), 2.02 (ddq, *J* = 14.7, 9.1, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 1.89 (dq, *J* = 14.8, 7.5, 4.5 Hz, 1H), 1.00 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  137.3, 127.3, 126.8, 125.0, 91.3, 33.7, 26.9, 10.3; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2974, 1550, 1440, 1374, 858, 703; GC/MS (EI) 185.1 (M)<sup>+</sup>, 138.1 (M-HNO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (EI) *m/z*, calculated for [C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>11</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>S]<sup>+</sup>: 185.0511; found: 185.0517.



**(27).** According to general procedure A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol), sodium trimethylsilanolate (135 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous benzene (6 mL), 1-nitropropane (112  $\mu$ L, 1.25 mmol), and melted 2-bromomethyl-benzoxazole (132  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography using 5-20  $\mu$ m silica gel (100:7:1 hexanes : diethyl ether : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:7 hexanes : diethyl ether) to afford nitroalkane **27** (183 mg, 83%) as a pale yellow oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.74 – 7.70 (m, 1H), 7.55 – 7.51 (m, 1H), 7.40 – 7.35 (m, 2H), 5.07 (ddd, *J* = 13.6, 8.6, 5.1 Hz, 1H), 3.77 (dd, *J* = 16.3, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 3.45 (dd, *J* = 16.3, 5.0 Hz, 1H), 2.18 – 2.09 (m, 1H), 2.09 – 2.01 (m, 1H), 1.07 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  162.4, 150.7, 139.7, 125.9, 125.2, 119.7, 111.0, 85.9, 31.7, 27.3, 10.0; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2975, 1575, 1509, 1241, 1159, 747; GC/MS (CI) 174.1 (M-NO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (CI) *m/z*, calculated for [C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 221.0926; found: 221.0929.

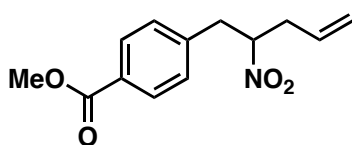


**(28).** According to general protocol B: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 1-nitrohexane (174  $\mu$ L, 1.25 mmol), and 4-cyanobenzyl bromide (196 mg, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 24 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:8:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:8 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **28** (176 mg, 71%) as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.61 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.28 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 4.69 (tt, *J* = 9.5, 4.7 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 9.5 Hz, 1H), 3.08 (dd, *J* = 14.4, 4.9 Hz, 1H), 2.10 – 1.98 (m, 1H), 1.83 – 1.71 (m, 1H), 1.41 – 1.23 (m, 6H), 0.91 – 0.84 (m, 3H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  141.2, 132.8, 129.8, 118.6, 111.6, 89.5, 39.9, 33.9, 31.1, 25.5, 22.4, 14.0; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 2957, 2930, 2229, 1550, 1506, 565; GC/MS (EI) 199.3 (M-HNO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (EI) *m/z*, calculated for [C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 247.1447; found: 247.1443.

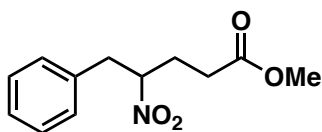


**(29).** CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol), and sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol) were added to a 25 mL Schlenk flask equipped with stir bar. The flask was sealed with a rubber septum, attached to a double manifold, and evacuated and

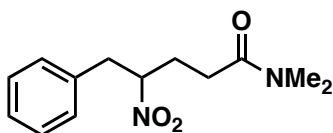
backfilled with nitrogen five times. Anhydrous dioxane (6 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was heated in a 60 °C oil bath with rapid stirring for 5 h. 2-methyl-1-nitropropane (135  $\mu$ L, 1.25 mmol) and benzyl bromide (120  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol) were then added and the resulting viscous mixture was allowed to continue heating at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 24 h. The flask was then cooled to rt, opened to air, and the reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (20 mL). The solution was washed twice with saturated ammonium chloride (25 mL) and once with brine (25 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **29** (126 mg, 65%) as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.33 – 7.22 (m, 3H), 7.17 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 4.50 (ddd,  $J$  = 11.0, 7.4, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (dd,  $J$  = 14.5, 10.6 Hz, 1H), 3.10 (dd,  $J$  = 14.5, 3.9 Hz, 1H), 2.31 – 2.17 (m, 1H), 1.11 (d,  $J$  = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.05 (d,  $J$  = 6.7 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  136.2, 128.9, 128.8, 127.4, 96.2, 37.2, 32.4, 19.2, 18.9; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2971, 1548, 1456, 1374, 699; GC/MS (EI) 146.2 ( $\text{M}-\text{HNO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2]^+$ : 193.1103; found: 193.1084.



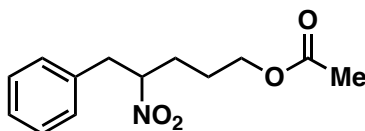
**(30).** According to general protocol B: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol), sodium methoxide (64.8 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 4-nitro-1-butene (128  $\mu$ L, 1.25 mmol), and methyl 4-(bromomethyl)benzoate (229 mg, 1.0 mmol) were combined under  $\text{N}_2$  and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 24 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:3:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:3 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **30** (179 mg, 72%) as a white solid: mp = 52–53 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.98 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.24 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 5.78 – 5.66 (m, 1H), 5.22 – 5.14 (m, 2H), 4.76 (tt,  $J$  = 8.8, 5.3 Hz, 1H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.32 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 9.0 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (dd,  $J$  = 14.3, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 2.78 – 2.68 (m, 1H), 2.61 – 2.53 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.9, 140.7, 131.1, 130.3, 129.5, 129.1, 120.3, 88.8, 52.4, 39.2, 37.8; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2953, 1721, 1552, 1436, 1282, 1182, 1112, 764; GC/MS (EI) 202.2 ( $\text{M}-\text{HNO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_4]^+$ : 249.1001; found: 249.0994.



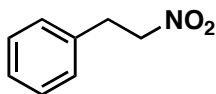
**(31).** According to general protocol A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol), sodium methoxide (64.8 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), methyl 4-nitrobutyrate (160  $\mu$ L, 1.25 mmol), and benzyl bromide (120  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol) were combined under  $\text{N}_2$  and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 6 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:5:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:5 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **31** (150 mg, 63%) as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.35 – 7.24 (m, 3H), 7.16 (d,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 4.86 – 4.74 (m, 1H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.29 (dd,  $J$  = 14.2, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.07 (dd,  $J$  = 14.2, 5.9 Hz, 1H), 2.49 – 2.11 (m, 4H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.7, 135.2, 129.02, 128.99, 127.7, 88.8, 52.2, 40.2, 30.1, 28.3; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 1734, 1550, 1437, 1364, 1202, 701; GC/MS (EI) 190.2 ( $\text{M}-\text{HNO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (CI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{NO}_4]^+$ : 238.1079; found: 238.1084.



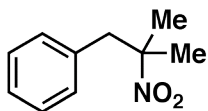
**(32).** According to general protocol A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous dioxane (6 mL), N,N-dimethyl-4-nitro-butanamide (181  $\mu$ L, 1.25 mmol), and benzyl bromide (120  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 24 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (50:50:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  50:50 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **32** (194 mg, 77%) as a green oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  7.33 – 7.16 (m, 5H), 5.00 – 4.90 (m, 1H), 3.15 (qd,  $J$  = 14.3, 7.2 Hz, 2H), 2.89 (s, 3H), 2.79 (s, 3H), 2.38 – 2.30 (m, 2H), 2.11 – 2.03 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, DMSO)  $\delta$  170.1, 135.9, 128.7, 128.4, 126.9, 88.9, 36.3, 34.7, 28.5, 28.2; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1653, 1549, 1200, 1147, 701; GC/MS (CI) 251.2 (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 204.2 (M-NO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (CI)  $m/z$ , calculated for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>19</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 251.1396; found: 251.1403.



**(33).** According to general protocol A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous hexanes (6 mL), 4-nitrobutyl acetate (175  $\mu$ L, 1.25 mmol), and benzyl bromide (120  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 24 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:5:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:5 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **33** (171 mg, 68%) as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.35 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.18 – 7.13 (m, 2H), 4.73 (dddd,  $J$  = 9.9, 8.6, 6.1, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 4.15 – 4.02 (m, 2H), 3.28 (dd,  $J$  = 14.1, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 3.04 (dd,  $J$  = 14.1, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 2.16 – 2.02 (m, 4H), 1.92 – 1.80 (m, 1H), 1.75 – 1.64 (m, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  172.3, 135.3, 129.03, 128.98, 127.7, 89.5, 63.7, 40.2, 30.0, 25.0, 21.0; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 1734, 1550, 1507, 1457, 1240, 668; GC/MS (EI) 204.2 (M-HNO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for [C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: 252.1236; found: 252.1250.

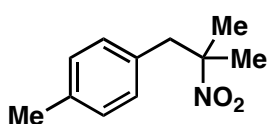


**(34).** According to general protocol A: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (61.3 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous dioxane (6 mL), nitromethane (403  $\mu$ L, 7.5 mmol), and benzyl bromide (120  $\mu$ L, 1.0 mmol) were combined under N<sub>2</sub> and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 4 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography (100:2:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:2 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **34** (110 mg, 73%) as a clear oil: <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.40 – 7.25 (m, 3H), 7.24 – 7.17 (m, 2H), 4.62 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 3.33 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (151 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  135.8, 129.1, 128.7, 127.6, 76.4, 33.6; FTIR (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3032, 1551, 1497, 1456, 1378, 699; GC/MS (EI) 151.1 (M)<sup>+</sup>. HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for [C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>9</sub>O<sub>2</sub>N]<sup>+</sup>: 151.0633; found: 151.0629.

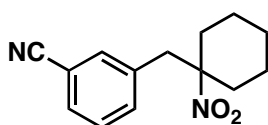


**(35).** CuBr (86.1 mg, 600  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (184 mg, 600  $\mu$ mol), and sodium *tert*-butoxide (346 mg, 3.6 mmol) were added to a 50 mL Schlenk flask equipped with stir bar. The flask was sealed with a rubber septum, attached to a double manifold, and evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen five times. Anhydrous cyclohexane (15 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was heated in a 60 °C oil bath with rapid stirring for 1 h. 2-Nitropropane (310  $\mu$ L, 3.45 mmol) and benzyl bromide (359  $\mu$ L, 3.0 mmol) were then added and the

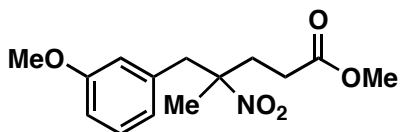
resulting viscous mixture was allowed to continue heating at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 48 h. The flask was then cooled to rt, opened to air, and the reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (60 mL). The solution was washed twice with saturated ammonium chloride (75 mL) and once with brine (75 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid → 100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **35** (394 mg, 73%) as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.33 – 7.27 (m, 3H), 7.13 – 7.09 (m, 2H), 3.20 (s, 2H), 1.58 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  135.0, 130.2, 128.6, 127.6, 88.8, 46.9, 25.7; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2990, 1538, 1456, 1397, 1349, 702; GC/MS (EI) 179.1 ( $\text{M}^+$ ), 132.1 ( $\text{M}-\text{HNO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{13}\text{NO}_2]^+$ : 179.0946; found: 179.0937.



**(36).** CuBr (86.1 mg, 600  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), ligand **4** (184 mg, 600  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), and sodium *tert*-butoxide (346 mg, 3.6 mmol) were added to a 50 mL Schlenk flask equipped with stir bar. The flask was sealed with a rubber septum, attached to a double manifold, and evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen five times. Anhydrous cyclohexane (15 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was heated in a 60 °C oil bath with rapid stirring for 1 h. 2-Nitropropane (310  $\mu\text{L}$ , 3.45 mmol) and 4-methylbenzyl bromide (419  $\mu\text{L}$ , 3.0 mmol) were then added and the resulting viscous mixture was allowed to continue heating at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 48 h. The flask was then cooled to rt, opened to air, and the reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (60 mL). The solution was washed twice with saturated ammonium chloride (75 mL) and once with brine (75 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash silica chromatography (100:1:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid → 100:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **36** (409 mg, 71%) as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.10 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 6.99 (d,  $J$  = 8.0 Hz, 2H), 3.15 (s, 2H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.56 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  137.3, 132.0, 130.1, 129.3, 88.8, 46.5, 25.7, 21.2; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2988, 2925, 1539, 1516, 1396, 1372, 1348, 793; GC/MS (EI) 193.1 ( $\text{M}^+$ ), 146.1 ( $\text{M}-\text{HNO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (EI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{15}\text{NO}_2]^+$ : 193.1103; found: 193.1097.

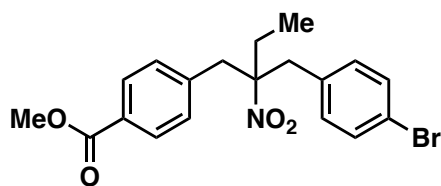


**(37).** According to general protocol B: CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), sodium *tert*-butoxide (115 mg, 1.2 mmol), anhydrous dioxane (6 mL), nitrocyclohexane (154  $\mu\text{L}$ , 1.25 mmol), and 3-cyanobenzyl bromide (196 mg, 1.0 mmol) were combined under  $\text{N}_2$  and heated at 60 °C with rapid stirring for 24 h. The reaction was worked up according to the general protocol and purified by flash silica chromatography using 5-20  $\mu\text{m}$  silica gel (5% EtOAc in hexanes with 0.1M trifluoroacetic acid) to afford nitroalkane **37** (178 mg, 73%) as a white solid: mp = 63–64 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.57 (d,  $J$  = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.40 (t,  $J$  = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (s, 1H), 7.27 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 3.12 (s, 2H), 2.38 (d,  $J$  = 13.3 Hz, 2H), 1.71 – 1.58 (m, 5H), 1.45 – 1.35 (m, 2H), 1.35 – 1.28 (m, 1H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  135.8, 134.4, 133.4, 131.4, 129.5, 118.6, 112.6, 91.7, 46.3, 34.0, 24.7, 22.3; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2940, 2230, 1535, 1449, 1345, 692; GC/MS (EI) 198.2 ( $\text{M}-\text{NO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (CI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{17}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2]^+$ : 245.1290; found: 245.1284.



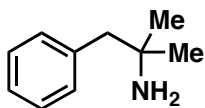
**(38).** In a nitrogen glovebox, CuBr (14.3 mg, 100  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), ligand **4** (38.3 mg, 125  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), sodium trimethylsilanolate (67.3 mg, 600  $\mu\text{mol}$ ), and anhydrous cyclohexane (3 mL) were added to a dry threaded 16

mm test tube equipped with a stir bar. The tube was sealed with a Teflon lined cap and heated in an aluminum block on a temperature controlled stir plate to 60 °C with vigorous stirring for 1 hour. After the allotted time, the reaction was removed from the aluminum block and allowed to cool to rt. Once cooled, methyl 4-nitropentanoate (82  $\mu$ L, 575  $\mu$ mol) and 3-methoxybenzyl bromide (70  $\mu$ L, 500  $\mu$ mol) were added to the reaction vessel. The reaction was returned to the aluminum block and heated to 60 °C with rapid stirring for 24 h. The reaction was then removed from the glovebox, allowed to cool to rt, and exposed to air. The solution was diluted with diethyl ether (10 mL), washed twice with saturated ammonium chloride (10 mL), and once with brine (10 mL). The organic layer was dried with magnesium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash silica chromatography (100:3:1 hexanes : ethyl acetate : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  100:3 hexanes : ethyl acetate) to afford nitroalkane **38** (74.5 mg, 53%) as a yellow oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.21 (t,  $J$  = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (dd,  $J$  = 8.3, 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.67 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.63 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.33 (d,  $J$  = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 3.03 (d,  $J$  = 13.9 Hz, 1H), 2.53 – 2.46 (m, 1H), 2.42 – 2.26 (m, 2H), 2.16 – 2.10 (m, 1H), 1.48 (s, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  172.6, 159.6, 135.7, 129.6, 122.4, 115.9, 112.9, 91.0, 55.2, 52.0, 46.2, 34.2, 28.9, 21.3; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2870, 1734, 1540, 1507, 1457, 1143; GC/MS (CI) 281.1 ( $\text{M}$ ) $^+$ , 235.1 ( $\text{M}-\text{NO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (CI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_5]^+$ : 281.1263; found: 281.1257.



(**39**). CuBr (28.7 mg, 200  $\mu$ mol), ligand **4** (76.6 mg, 250  $\mu$ mol), sodium methoxide (64.8 mg, 1.2 mmol), nitroalkane **19** (323 mg, 1.25 mmol), and methyl 4-(bromomethyl)benzoate (229 mg, 1.0 mmol) were added to a 25 mL Schlenk flask equipped with stir bar. The flask was sealed with a rubber septum,

attached to a double manifold, and evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen five times. Anhydrous dioxane (6 mL) was added and the resulting mixture was heated in a 60 °C oil bath with rapid stirring for 48 h. The flask was then cooled to rt, opened to air, and the reaction mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (20 mL). The solution was washed twice with saturated ammonium chloride (25 mL) and once with brine (25 mL), dried over magnesium sulfate and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude product was purified by flash silica chromatography (70:30:1 petroleum ether : benzene : trifluoroacetic acid  $\rightarrow$  60:40 petroleum ether : benzene). The resulting residue was washed with hexanes to afford nitroalkane **39** (264 mg, 65%) as a white solid: mp = 92–93 °C;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (600 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.97 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 7.42 (d,  $J$  = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.17 (d,  $J$  = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 6.97 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 2H), 3.91 (s, 3H), 3.44 (d,  $J$  = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.36 (d,  $J$  = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (d,  $J$  = 14.4 Hz, 1H), 3.13 (d,  $J$  = 14.5 Hz, 1H), 1.81 (q,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 1.09 (t,  $J$  = 7.4 Hz, 3H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (151 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  166.8, 139.8, 133.5, 132.0, 131.7, 130.1, 130.0, 129.8, 122.0, 95.7, 52.3, 42.1, 41.7, 25.5, 9.0; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2949, 1719, 1539, 1281, 1110; GC/MS (CI) 406.1 ( $\text{M}$ ) $^+$ , 359.1 ( $\text{M}-\text{HNO}_2$ ) $^+$ . HRMS (CI)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_4\text{Br}]^+$ : 405.0576; found: 405.0590.



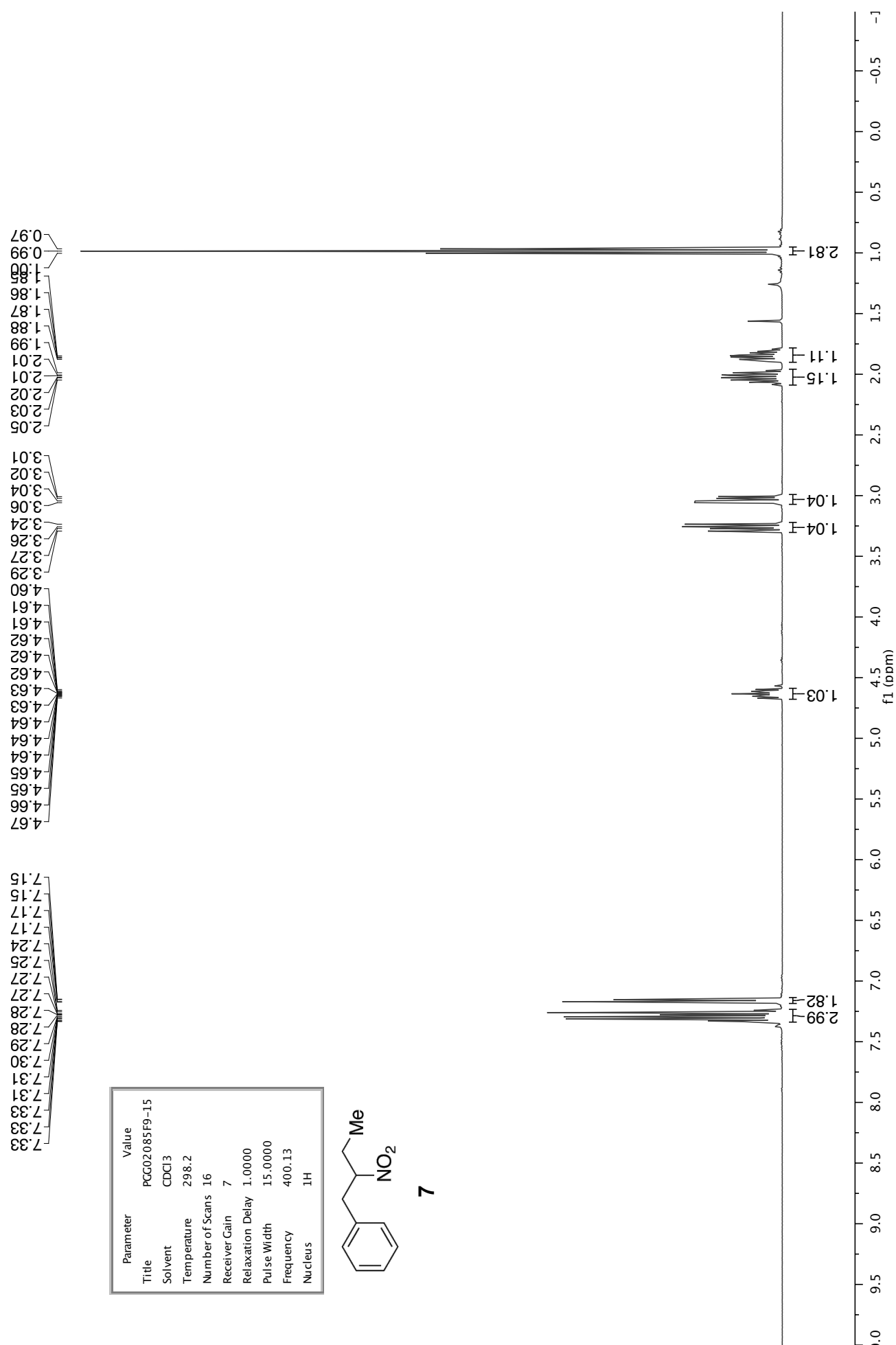
(**40**). Nitroalkane **35** (179 mg, 1.0 mmol) and methanol were added to a 25 mL recovery flask equipped with stir bar. Using a T joint adapter the flask was evacuated and backfilled with nitrogen several times.

The adapter was removed and Palladium on carbon was quickly added. The adapter was replaced and the flask was evacuated and backfilled five times with nitrogen. A hydrogen balloon was added to the T joint and the flask was evacuated and backfilled ten times with hydrogen. The resulting suspension was heated in a 40 °C oil bath for 24 h. The flask was then cooled to rt, vented, and the suspension was poured

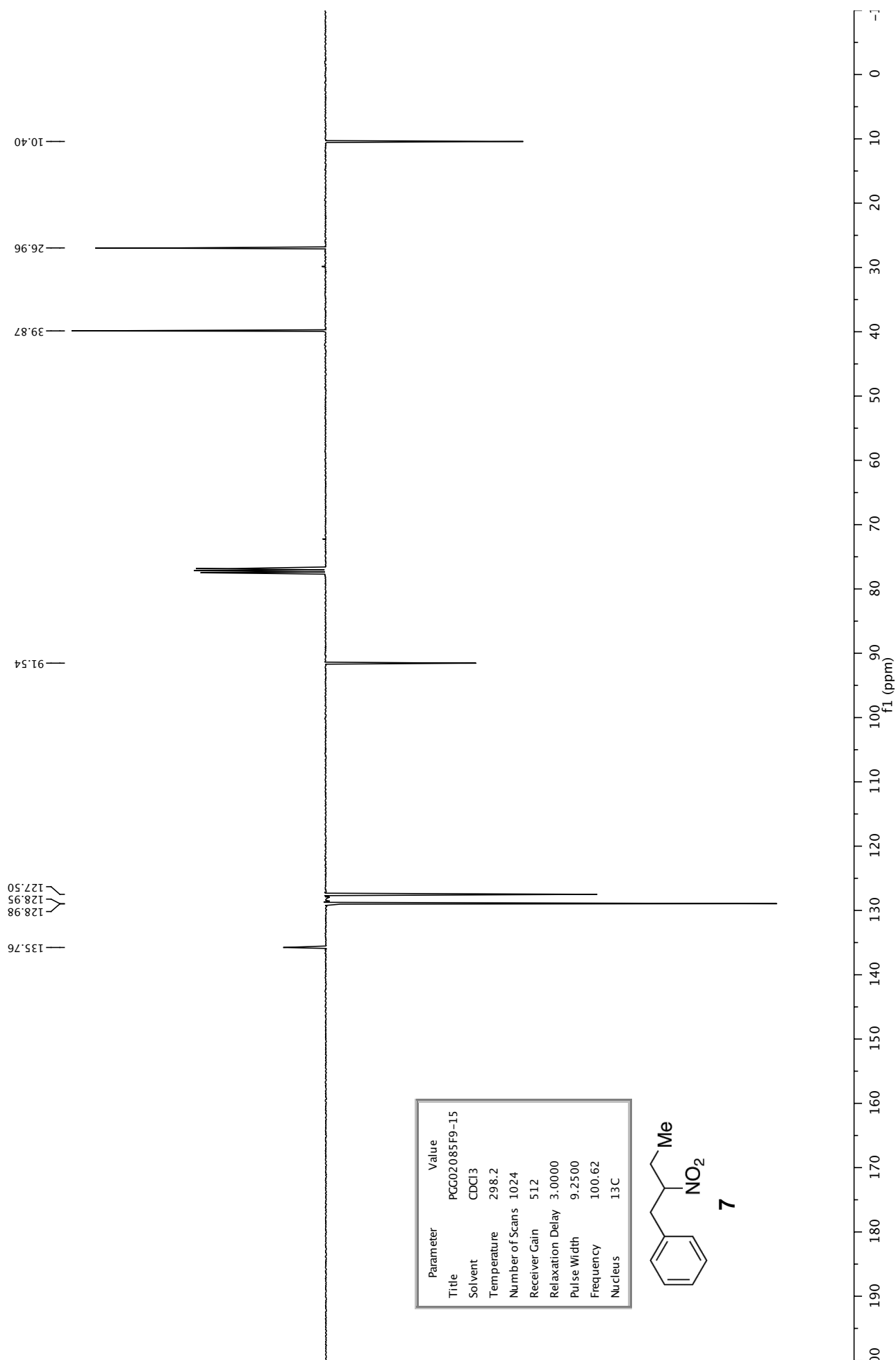
through a fritted funnel with celite. The solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford amine **40** (146 mg, 98%) as a clear oil:  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.34 – 7.15 (m, 5H), 2.66 (s, 2H), 1.26 (s, 2H), 1.12 (s, 6H);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (101 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  138.5, 130.5, 128.0, 126.3, 51.1, 50.1, 30.4; FTIR ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ): 2962, 1452, 1386, 1381, 854, 724, 702; ESI+ 150.0 (M+H) $^+$ . HRMS (QTOF)  $m/z$ , calculated for  $[\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}]^+$ : 150.1283; found: 150.1281.

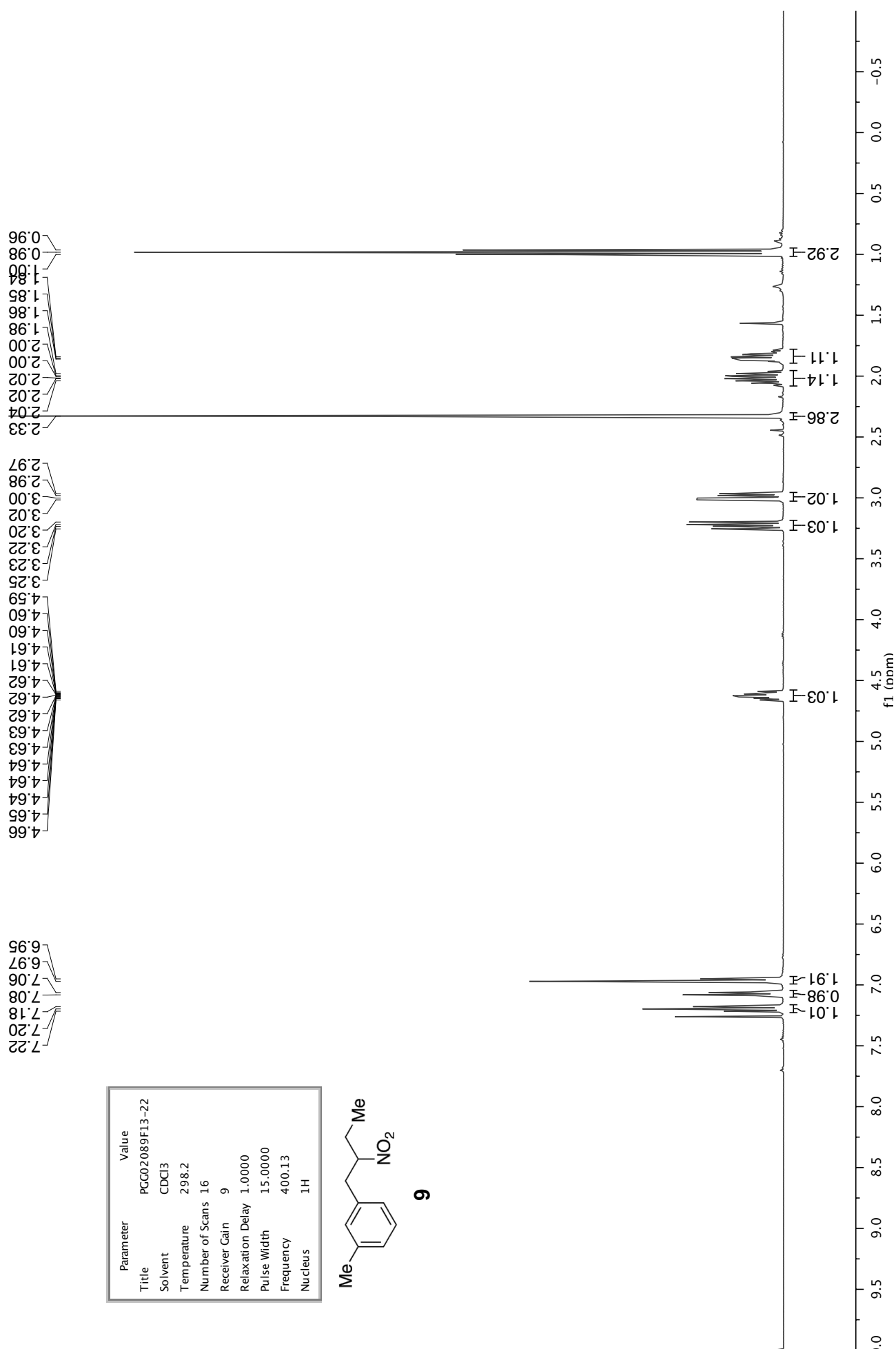
## 6. References.

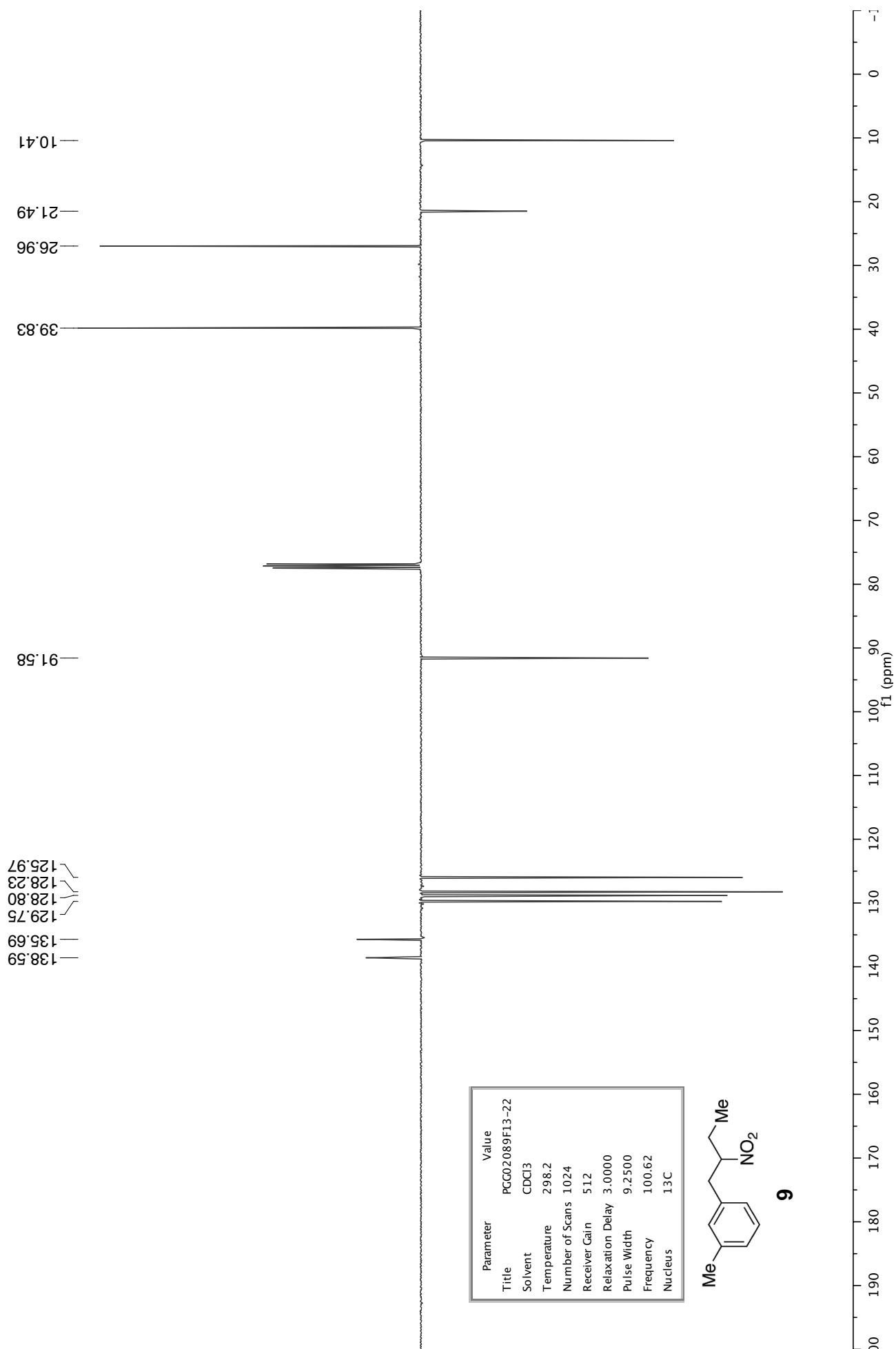
- (1) Pangborn, A. B.; Giardello, M. A.; Grubbs, R. H.; Rosen, R. K.; Timmers, F. J. *Organometallics* **1996**, *15*, 1518.
- (2) Budzelaar, P. H. M.; Moonen, N. N. P.; de Gelder, R.; Smits, J. M. M.; Gal, A. W. *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* **2000**, *2000*, 753.
- (3) Dwyer, A. N.; Grossel, M. C.; Horton, P. N. *Supramol. Chem.* **2004**, *16*, 405.
- (4) Prazeres, V. F. V.; Tizon, L.; Otero, J. M.; Guardado-Calvo, P.; Llamas-Saiz, A. L.; van Raaij, M. J.; Castedo, L.; Lamb, H.; Hawkins, A. R.; Gonzalez-Bello, C. *J. Med. Chem.* **2010**, *53*, 191.
- (5) Anthony, N. G.; Breen, D.; Clarke, J.; Donoghue, G.; Drummond, A. J.; Ellis, E. M.; Gemmell, C. G.; Helesbeux, J.-J.; Hunter, I. S.; Khalaf, A. I.; Mackay, S. P.; Parkinson, J. A.; Suckling, C. J.; Waigh, R. D. *J. Med. Chem.* **2007**, *50*, 6116.
- (6) Skiles, J. W.; Fuchs, V.; Miao, C.; Sorcek, R.; Grozinger, K. G.; Mauldin, S. C.; Vitous, J.; Mui, P. W.; Jacober, S.; Chow, G.; Matteo, M.; Skoog, M.; Weldon, S. M.; Possanza, G.; Keirns, J.; Letts, G.; Rosenthal, A. S. *J. Med. Chem.* **1992**, *35*, 641.
- (7) Marsh, G. P.; Parsons, P. J.; McCarthy, C.; Corniquet, X. G. *Org. Lett.* **2007**, *9*, 2613.
- (8) Bobál, P.; Lightner, D. A. *J. Heterocycl. Chem.* **2001**, *38*, 527.
- (9) Zhang, H.-Z.; Zhang, H.; Kemnitzer, W.; Tseng, B.; Cinatl, J.; Michaelis, M.; Doerr, H. W.; Cai, S. X. *J. Med. Chem.* **2006**, *49*, 1198.
- (10) Ballini, R.; Barboni, L.; Giarlo, G. *J. Org. Chem.* **2004**, *69*, 6907.
- (11) Gilbert, K. E.; Borden, W. T. *J. Org. Chem.* **1979**, *44*, 659.
- (12) Ballini, R.; Bosica, G. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, *1998*, 355.
- (13) Patt, S. L.; Shoolery, J. N. *J. Magn. Reson.* **1982**, *46*, 535.
- (14) Tang, L.-M.; Duan, Y.-Q.; Li, X.-F.; Li, Y.-S. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **2006**, *691*, 2023.
- (15) Badiei, Y. M.; Dinescu, A.; Dai, X.; Palomino, R. M.; Heinemann, F. W.; Cundari, T. R.; Warren, T. H. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 9961.

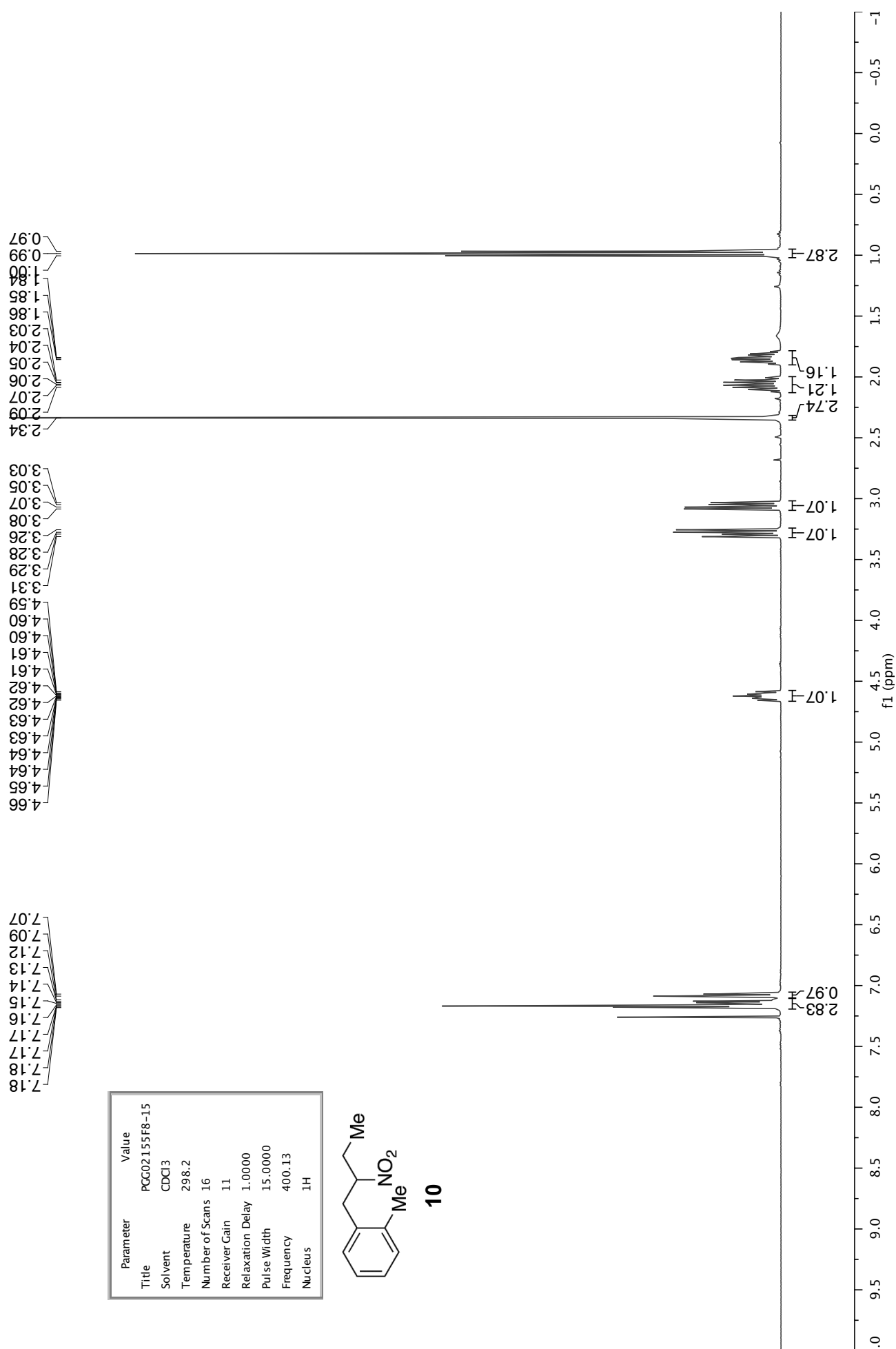


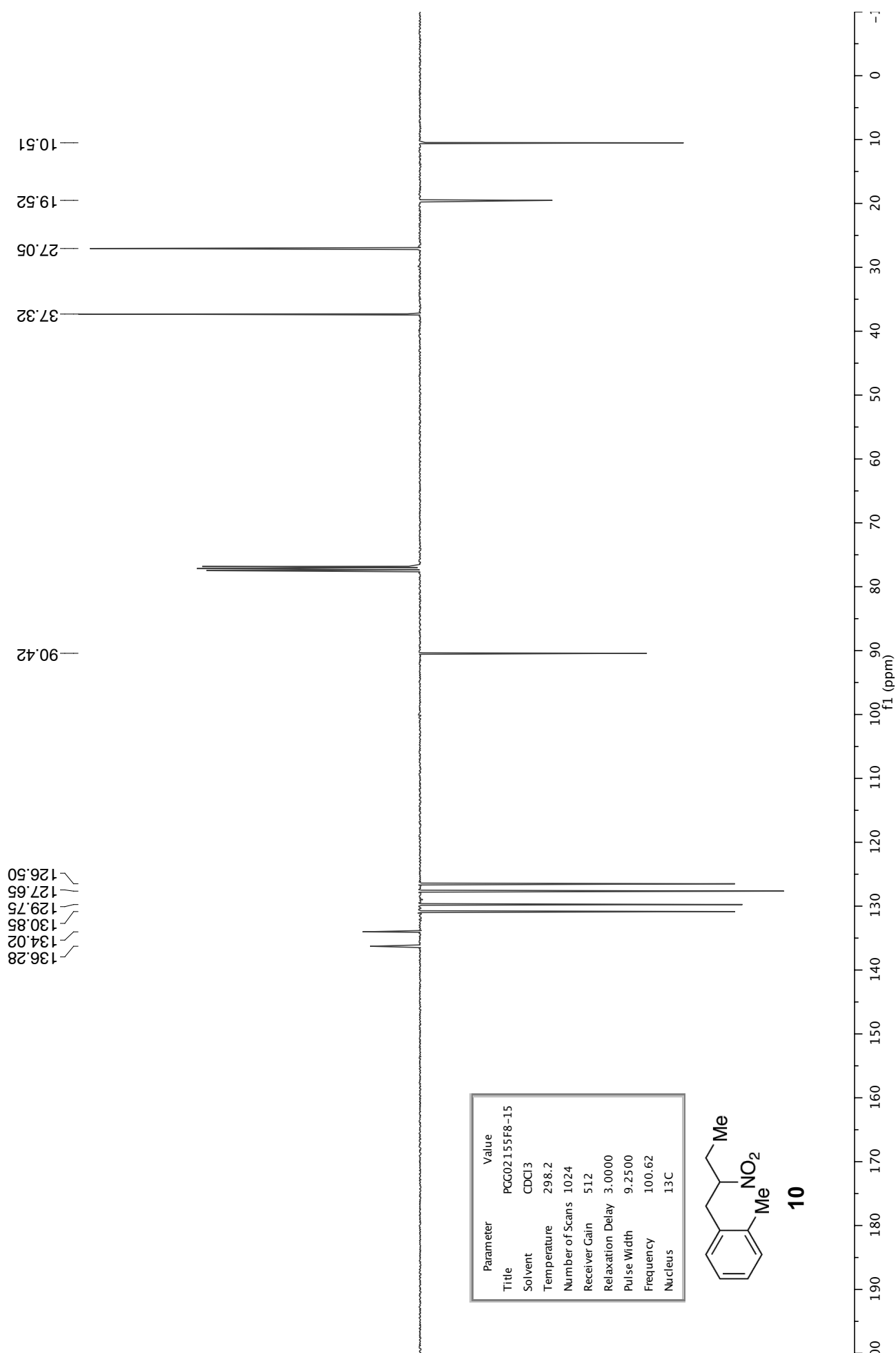


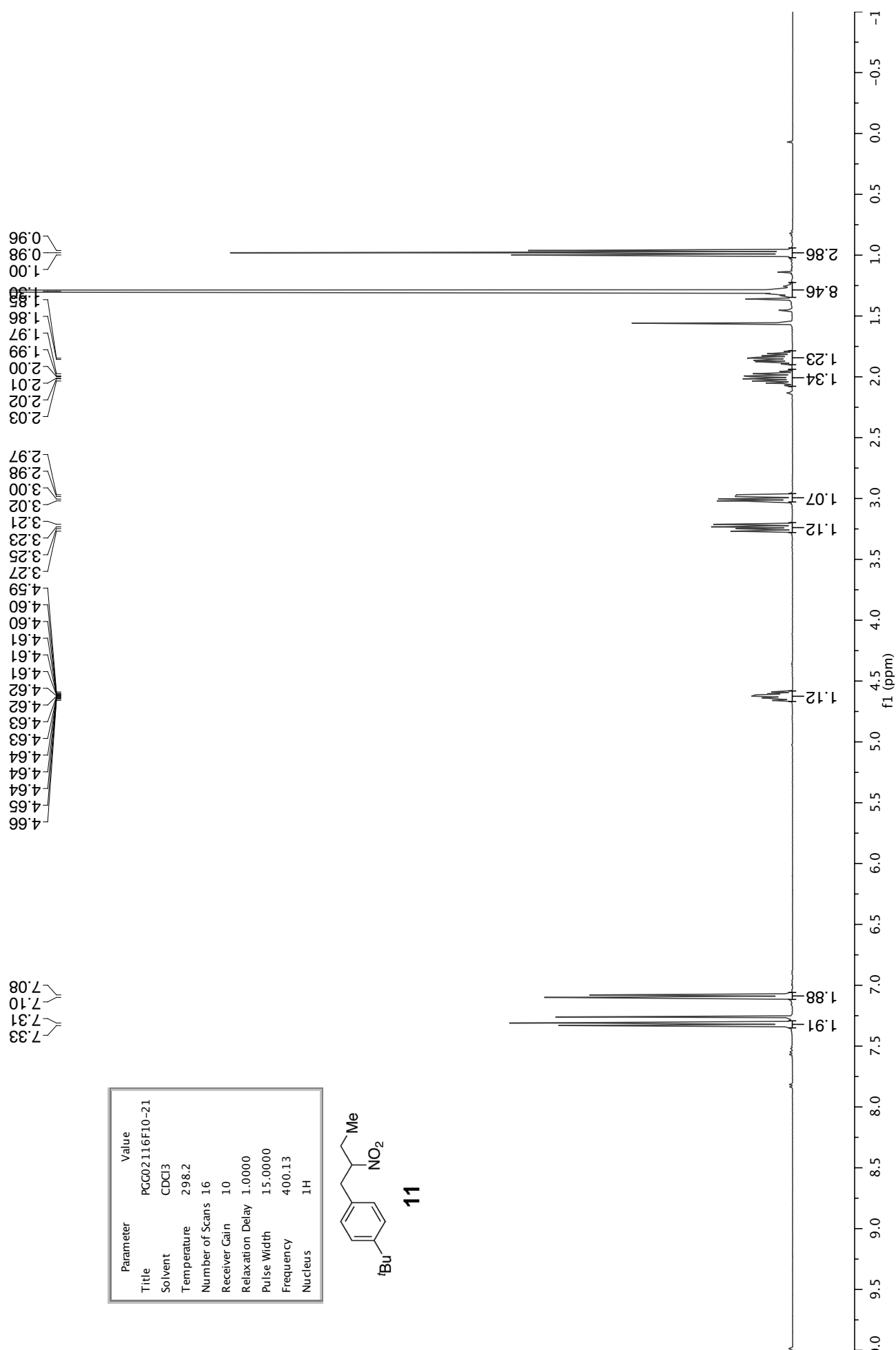


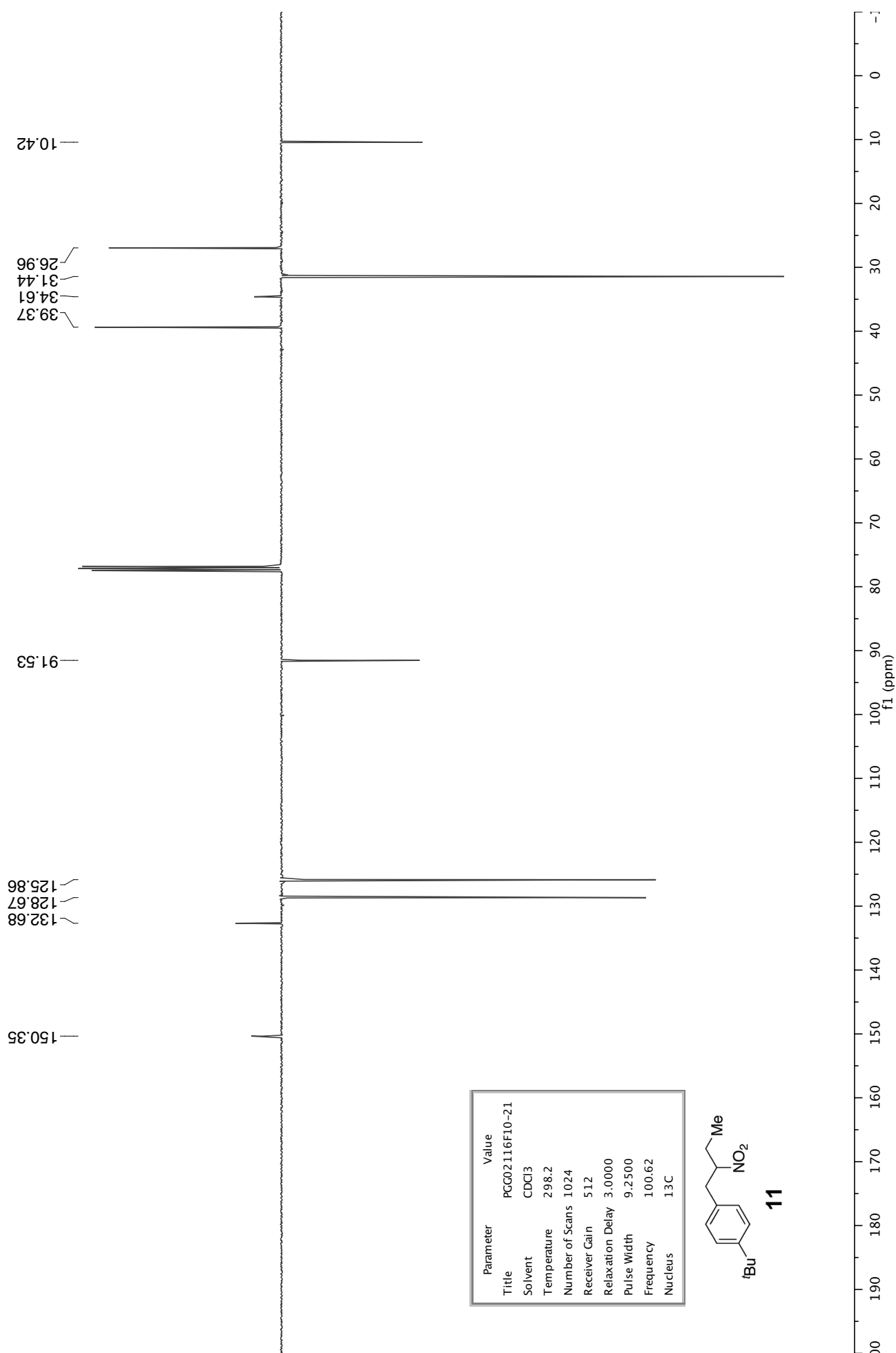


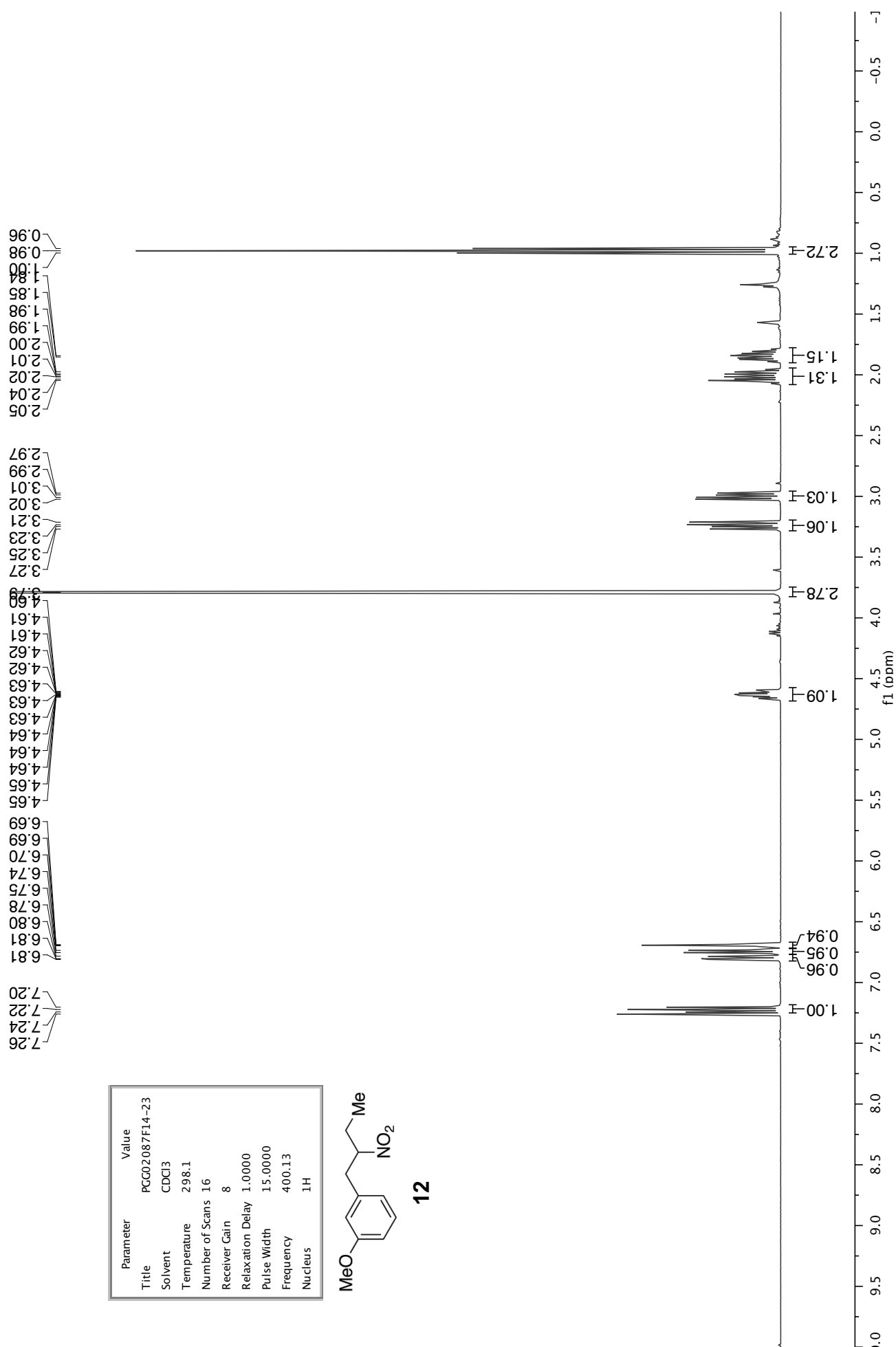




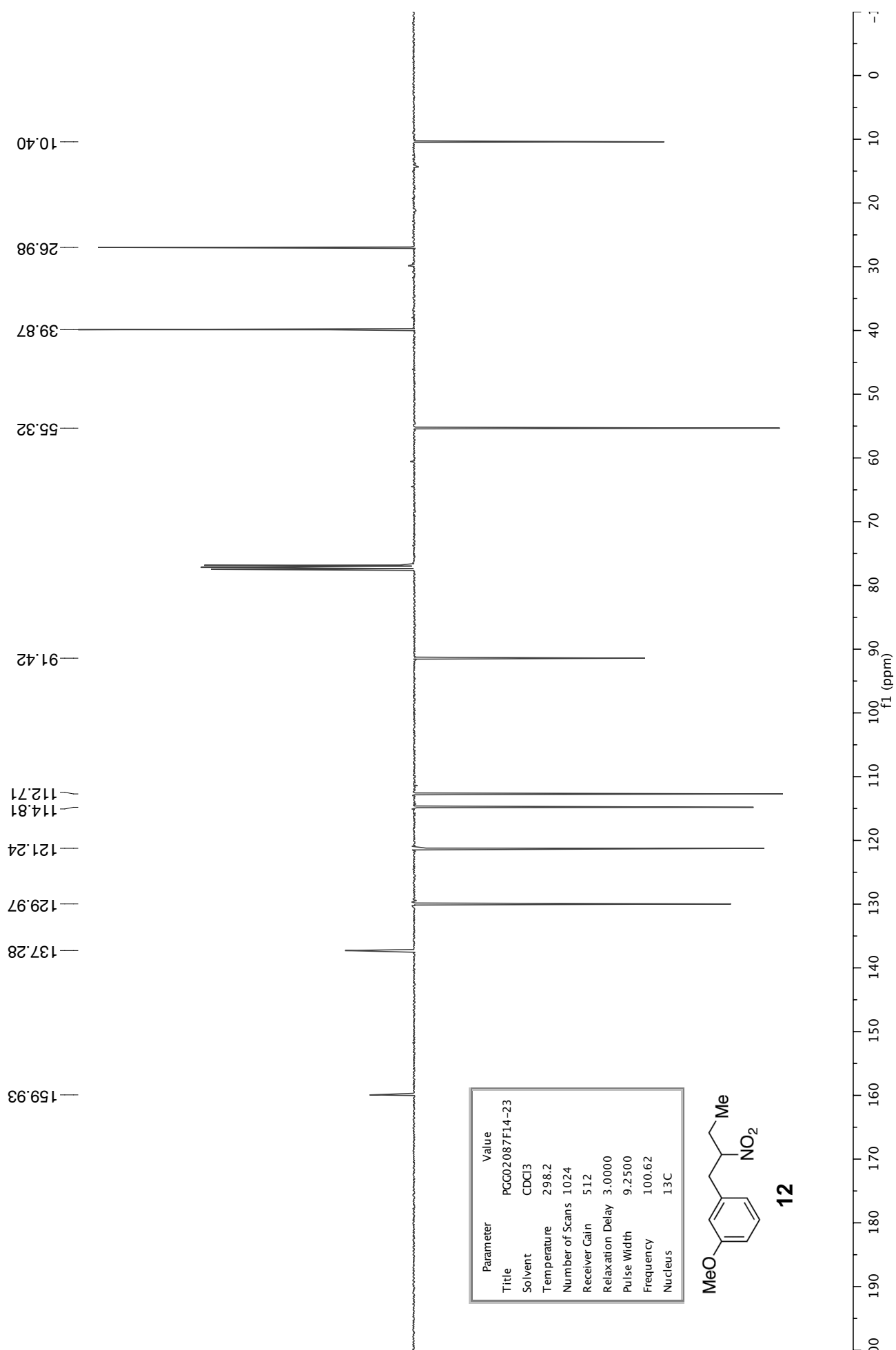


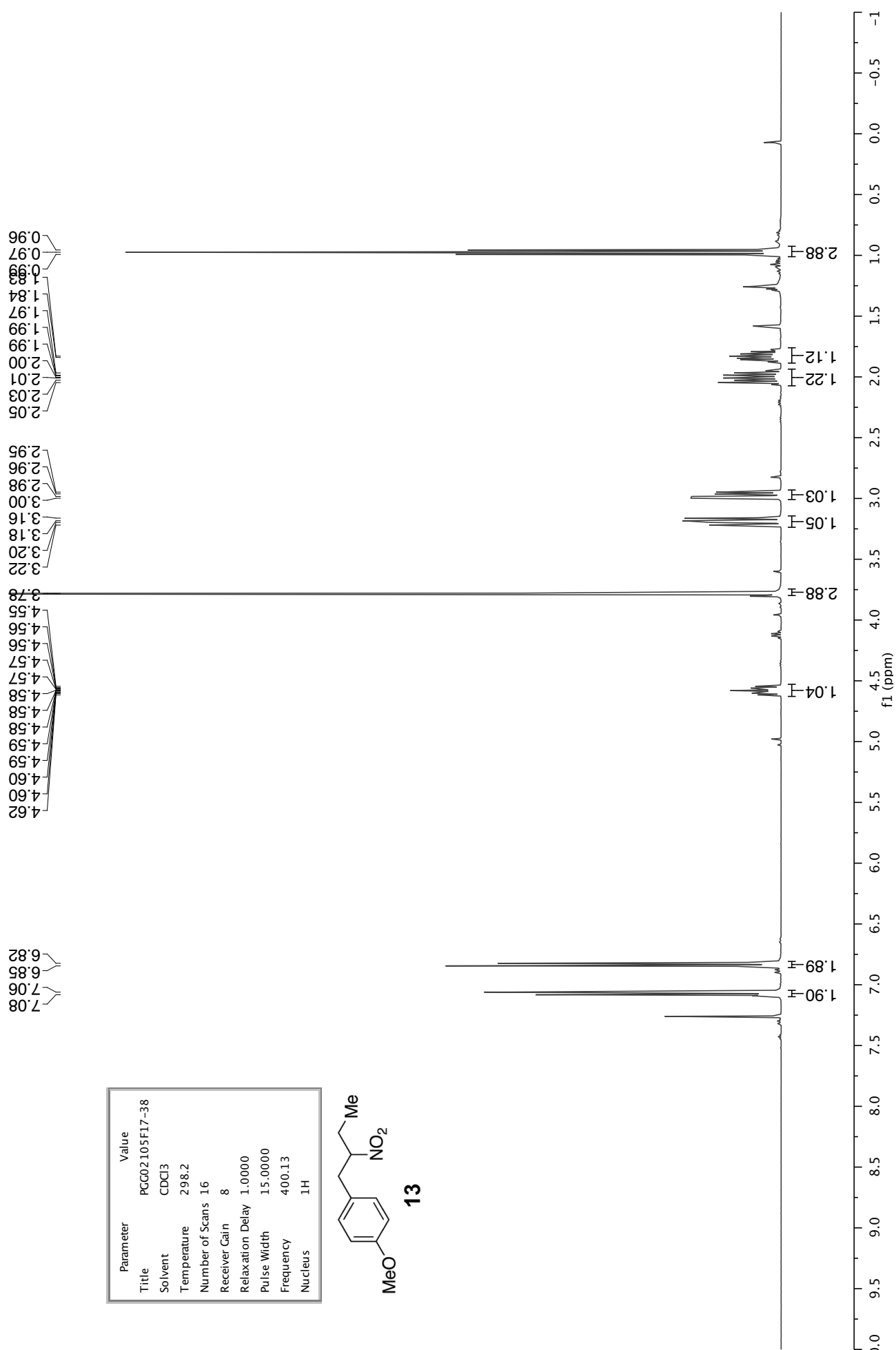


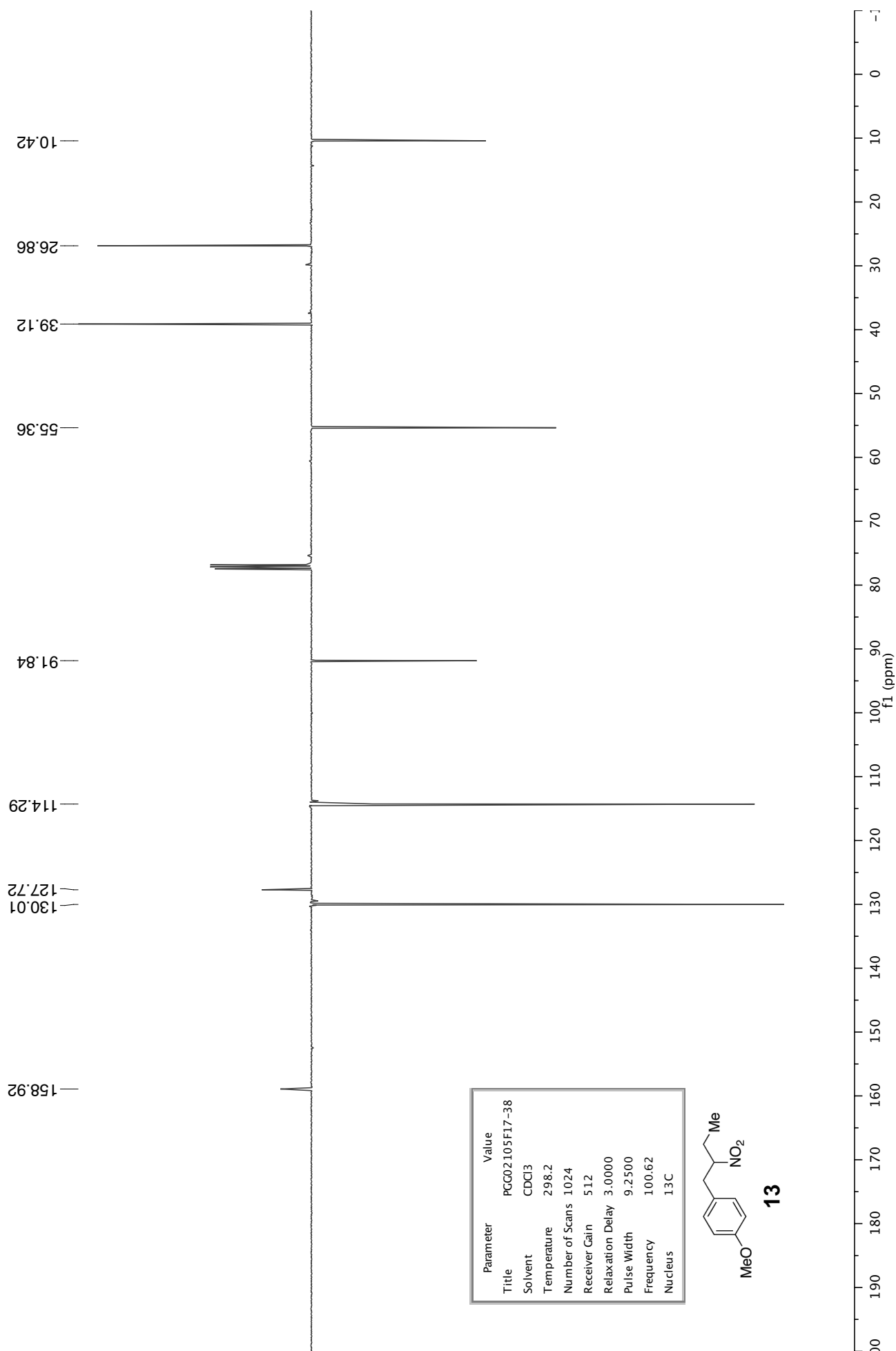


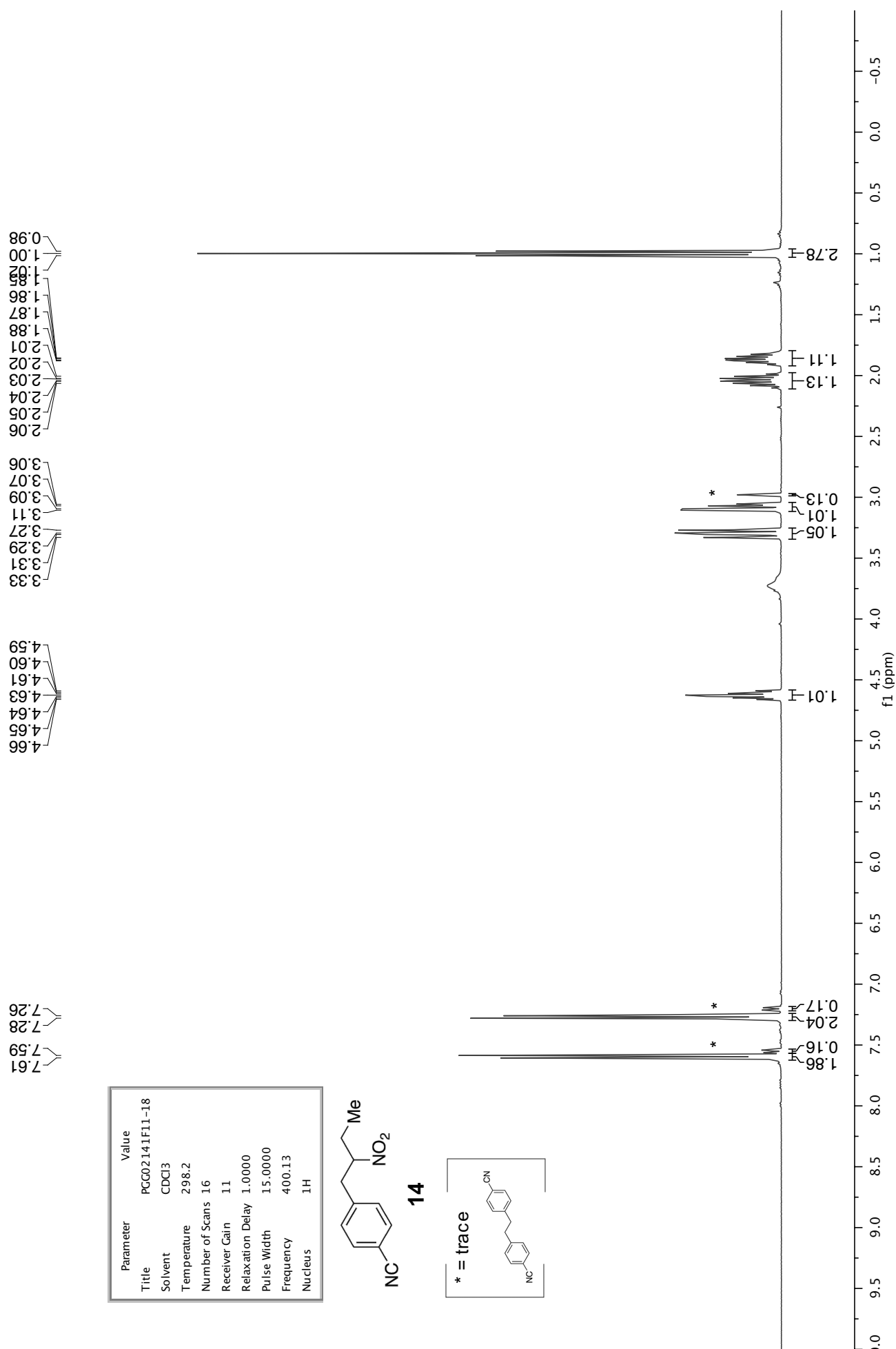


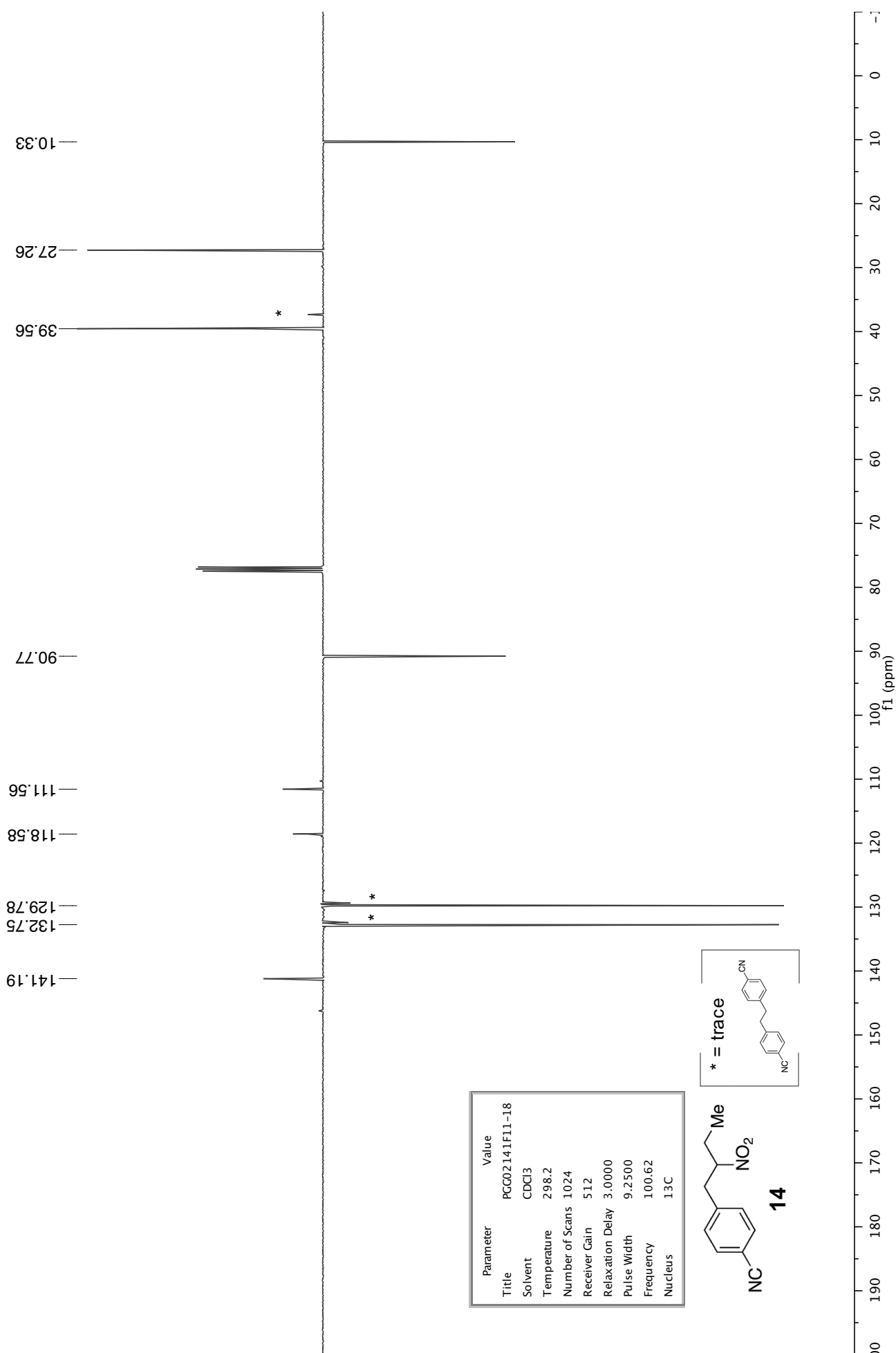


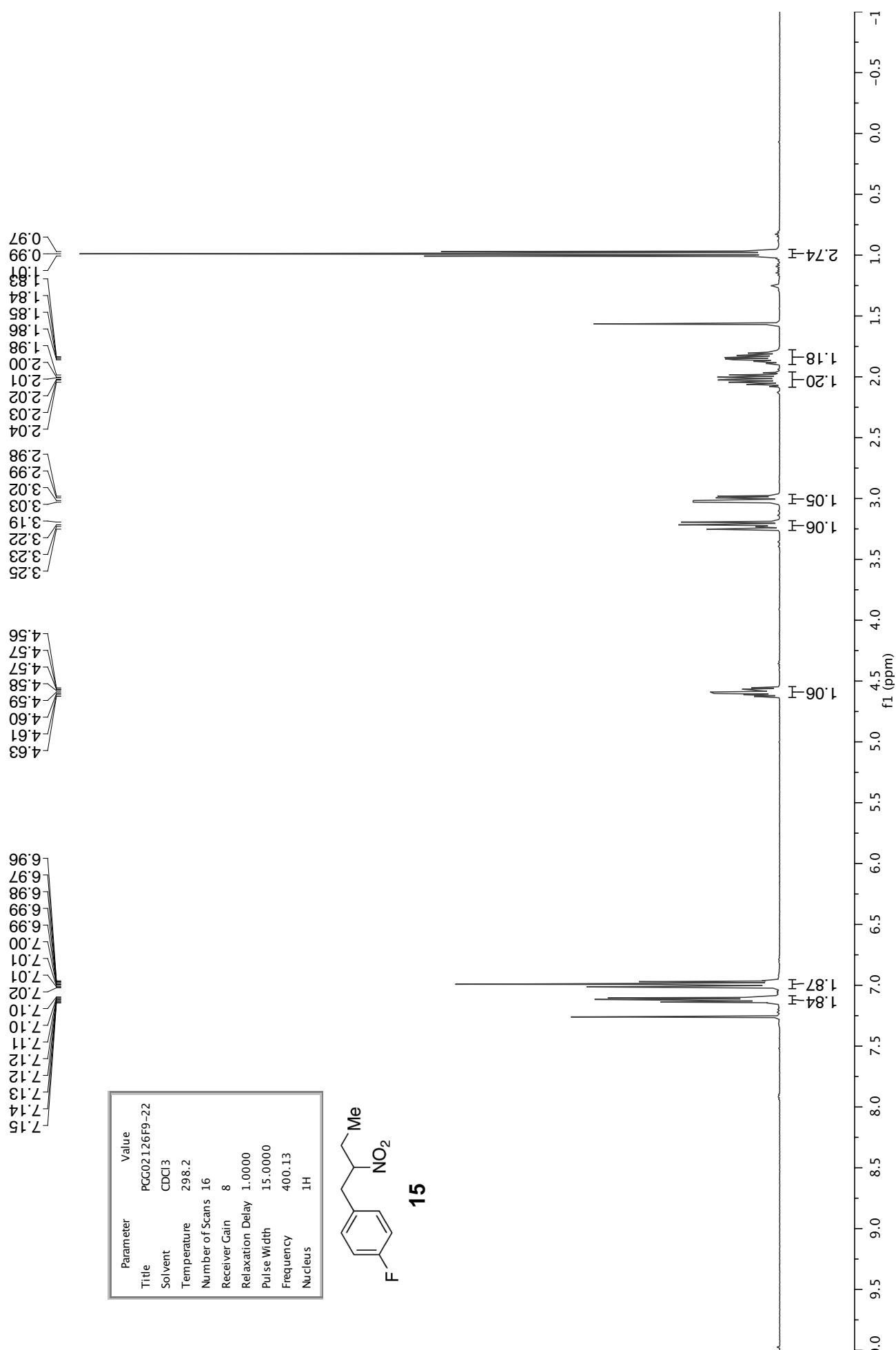


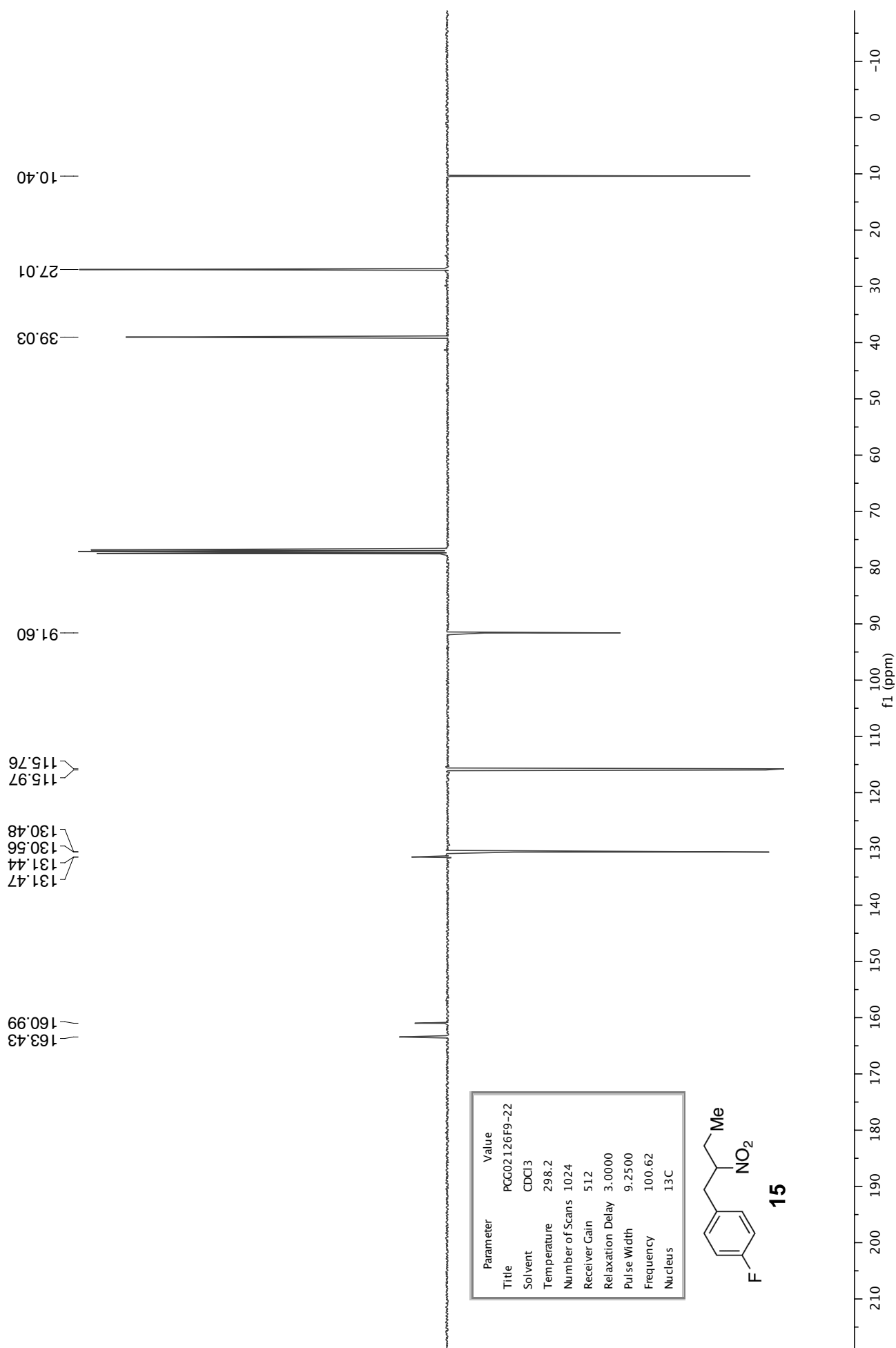






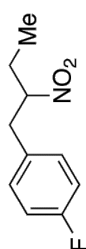
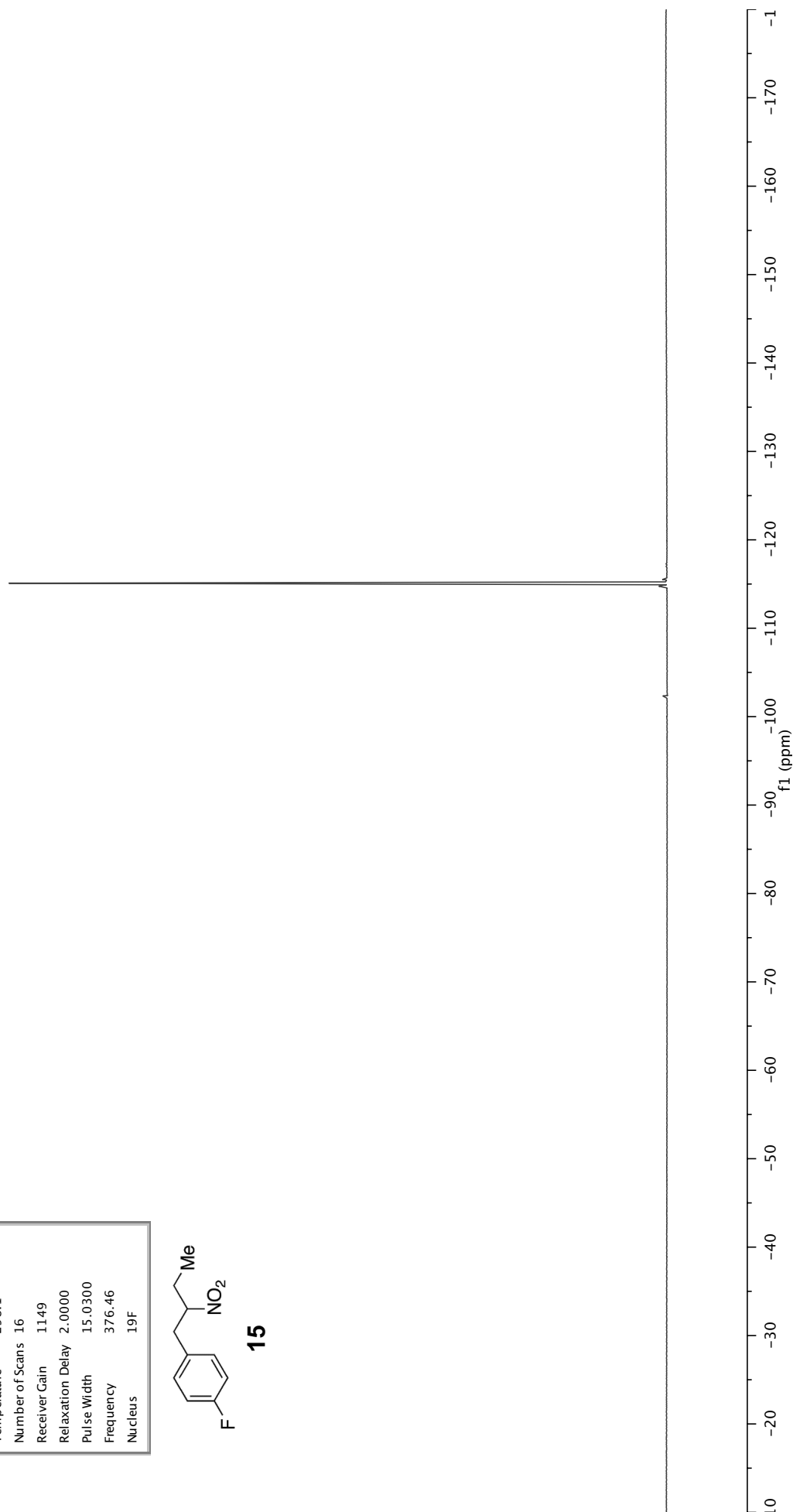




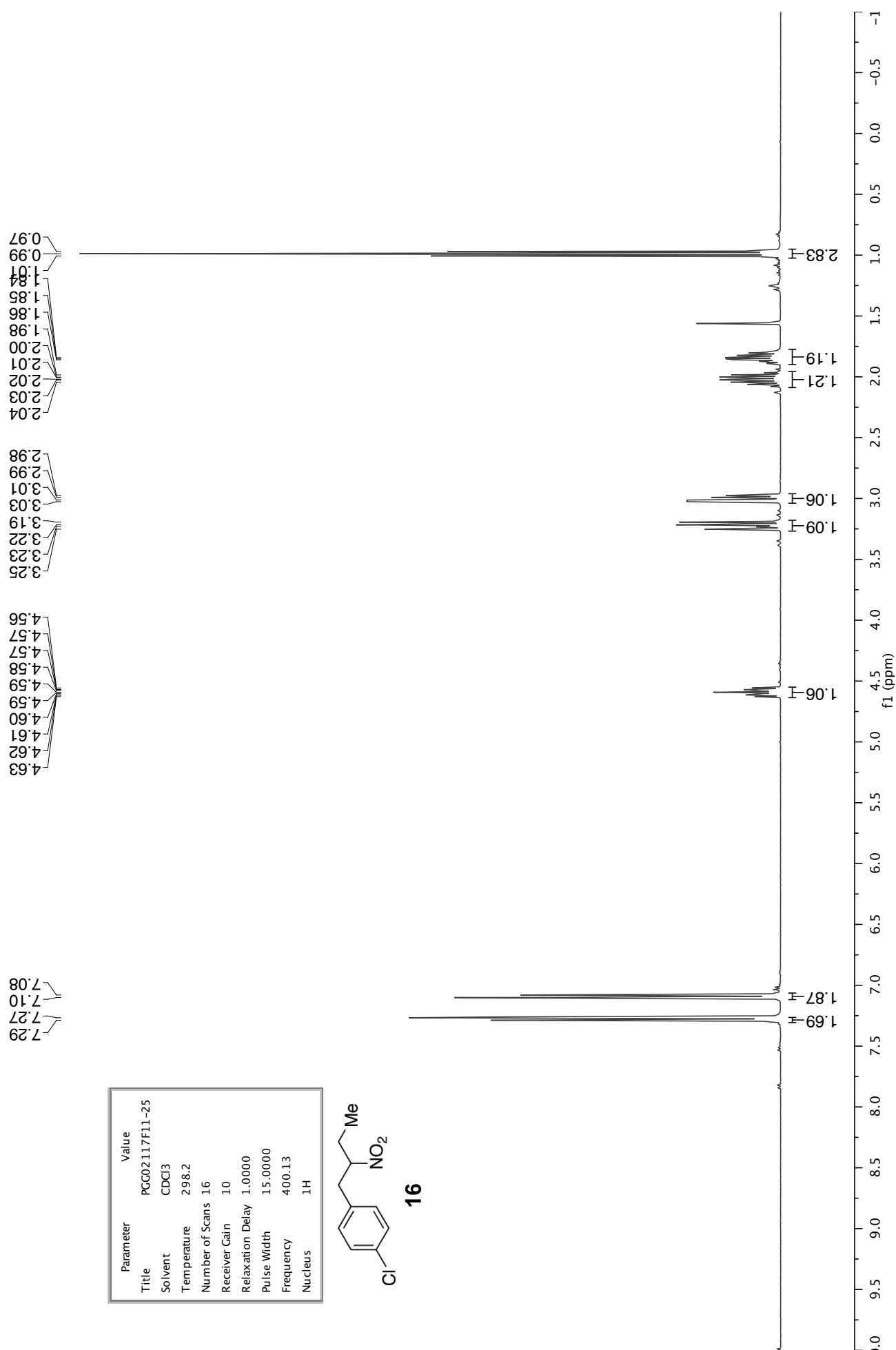


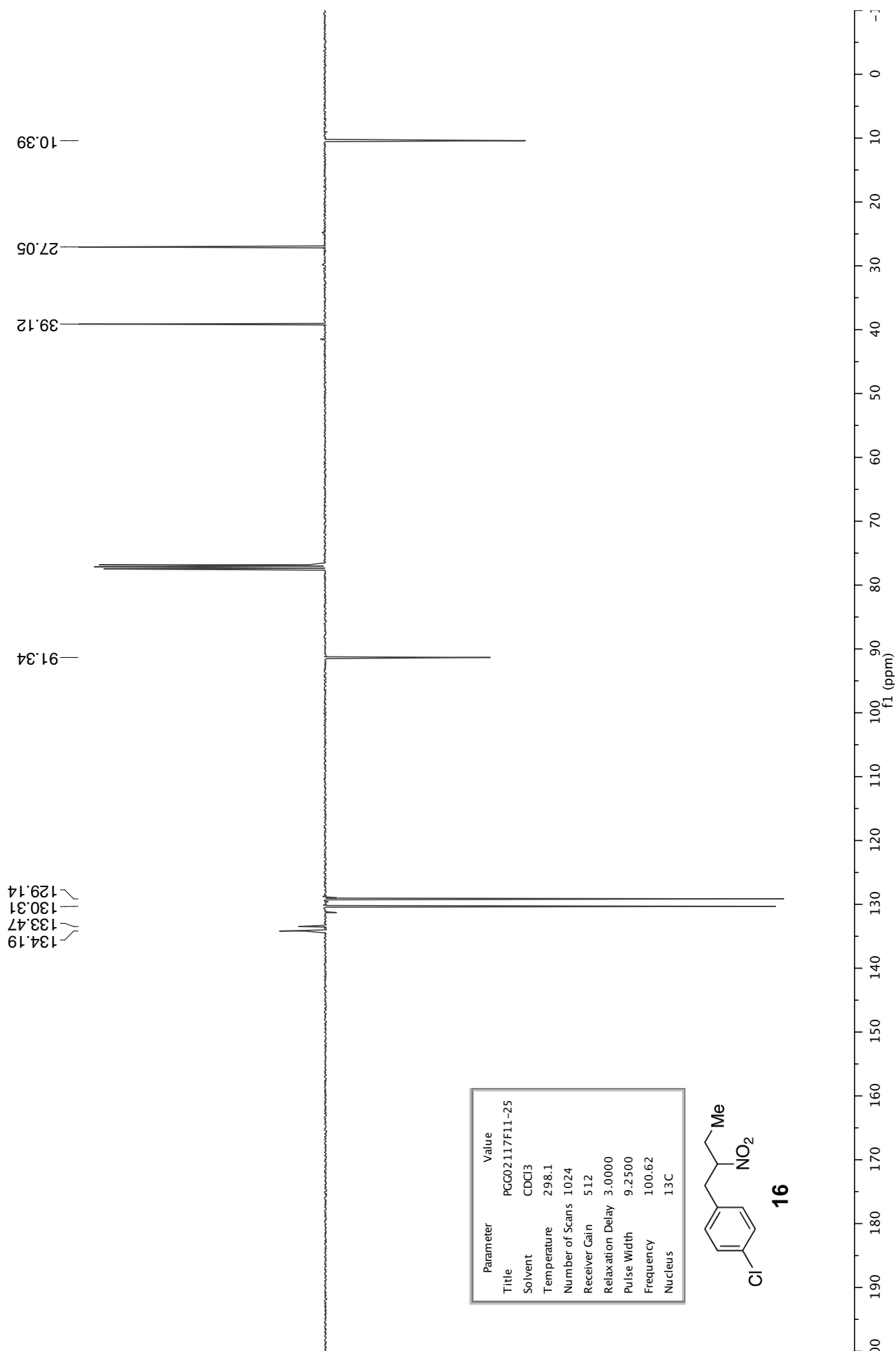
115.13  
115.12  
115.11  
115.09  
115.08  
115.07  
115.06

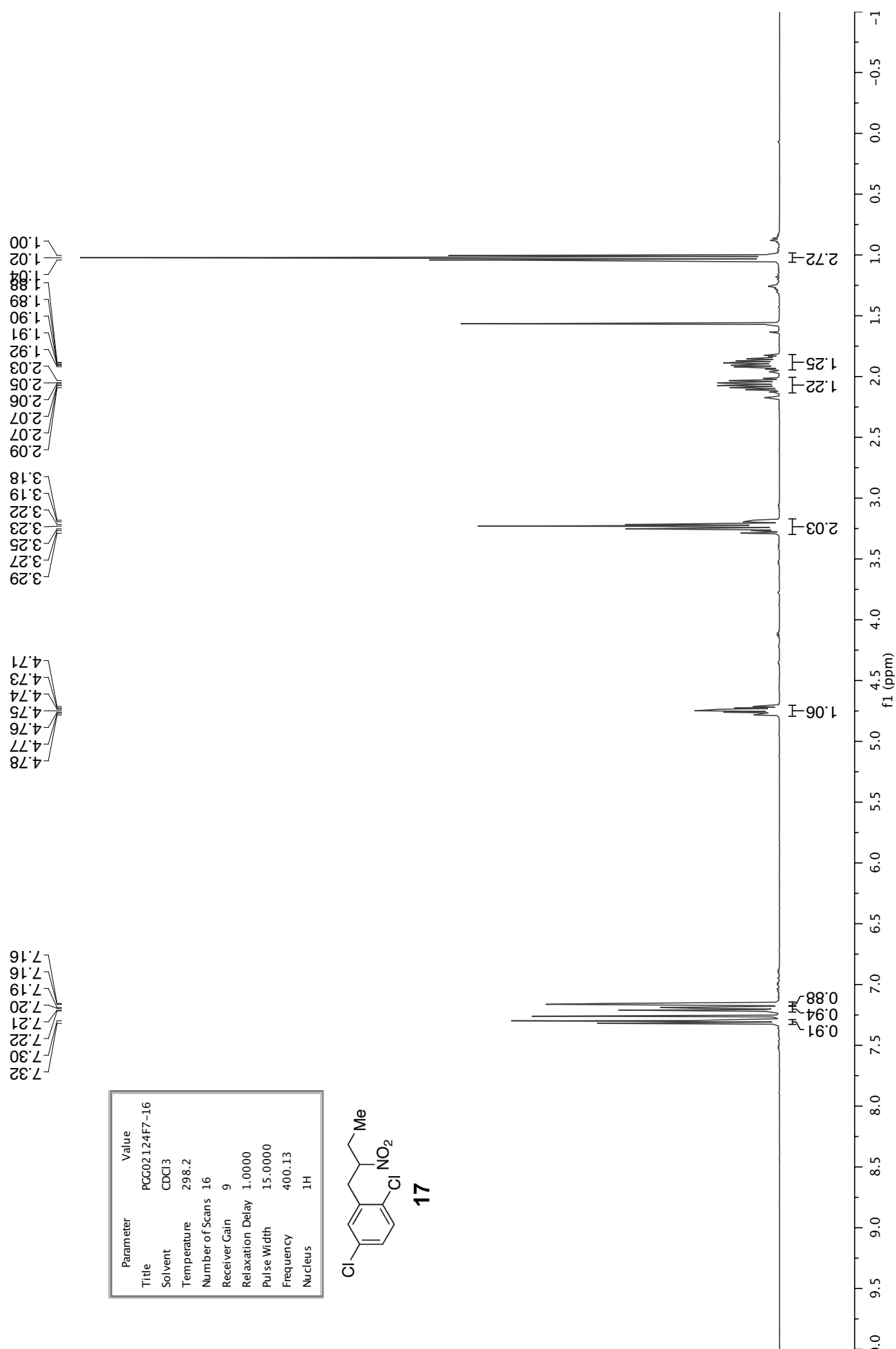
Parameter	Value
Title	PG02126F9-22
Solvent	CDCl <sub>3</sub>
Temperature	298.1
Number of Scans	16
Receiver Gain	1149
Relaxation Delay	2.0000
Pulse Width	15.0300
Frequency	376.46
Nucleus	<sup>19</sup> F

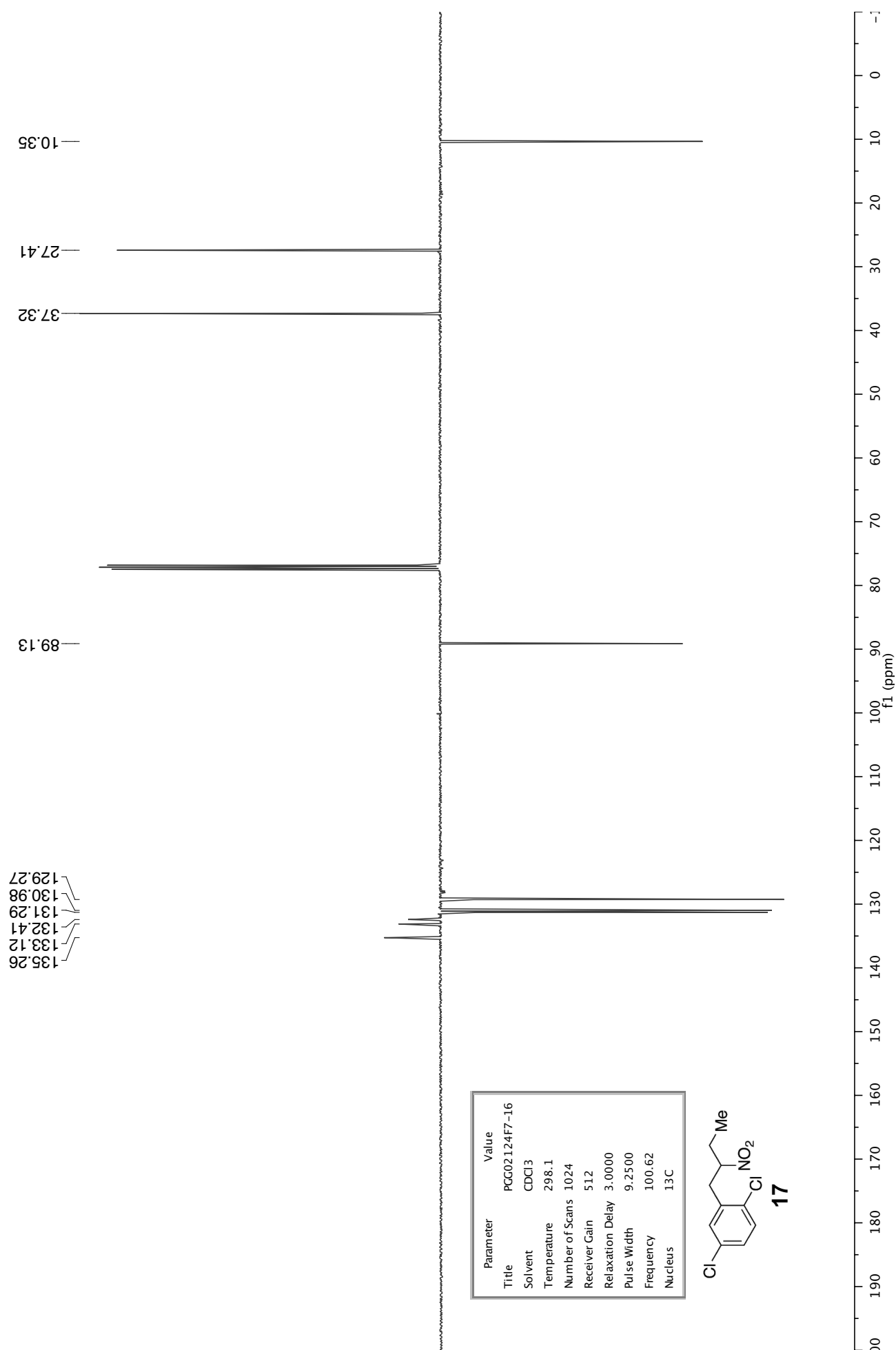
**15**

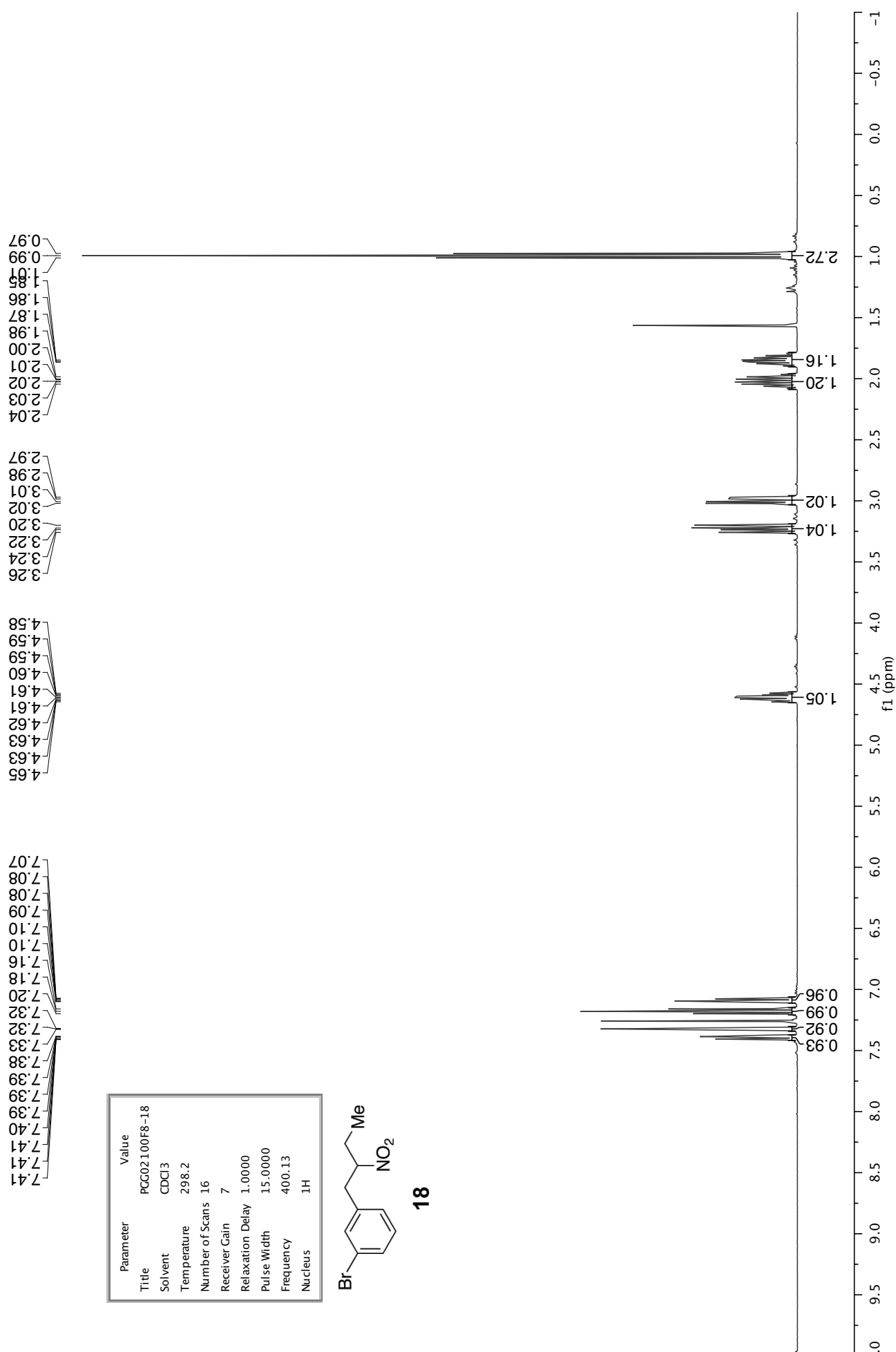


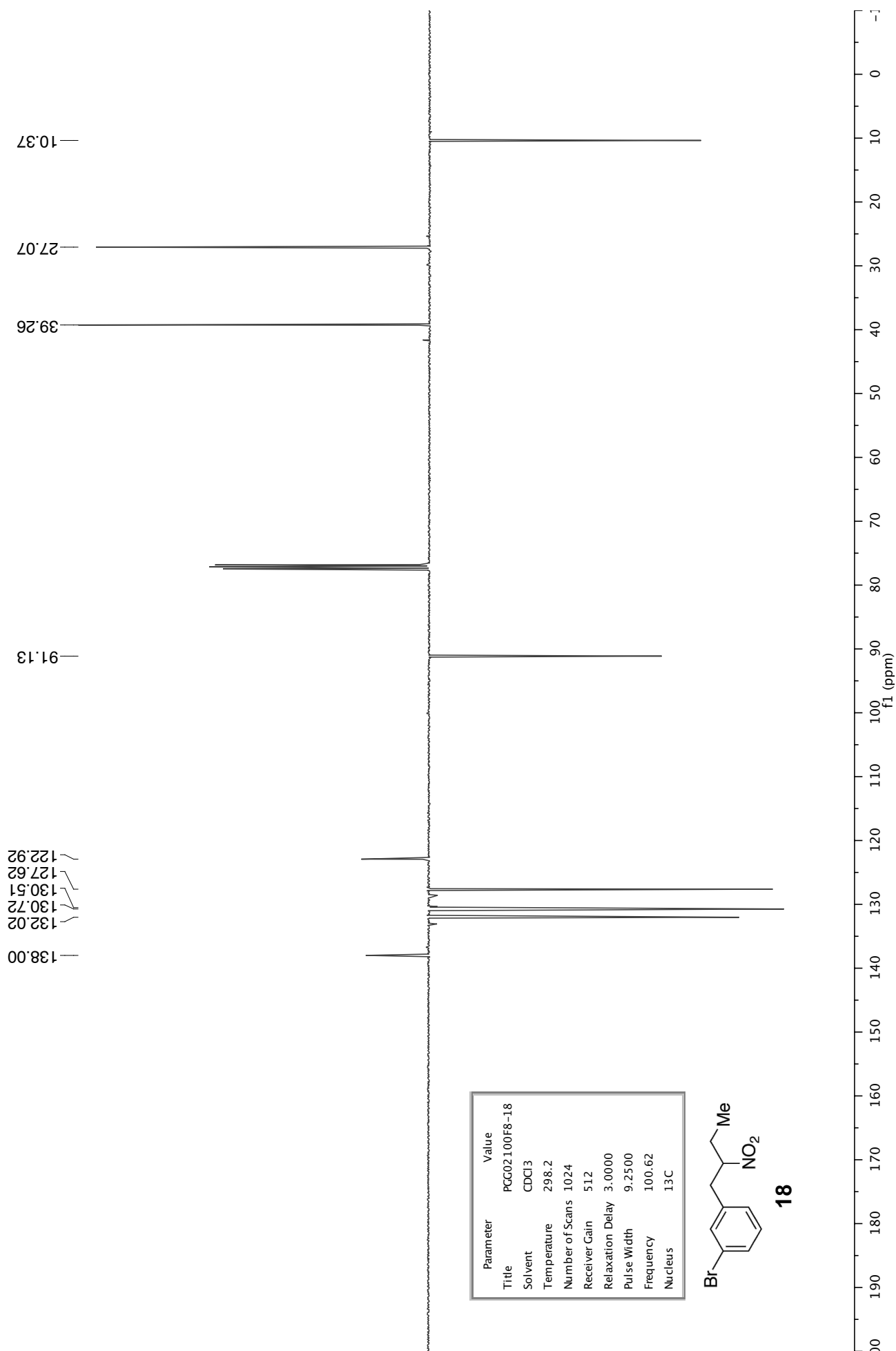


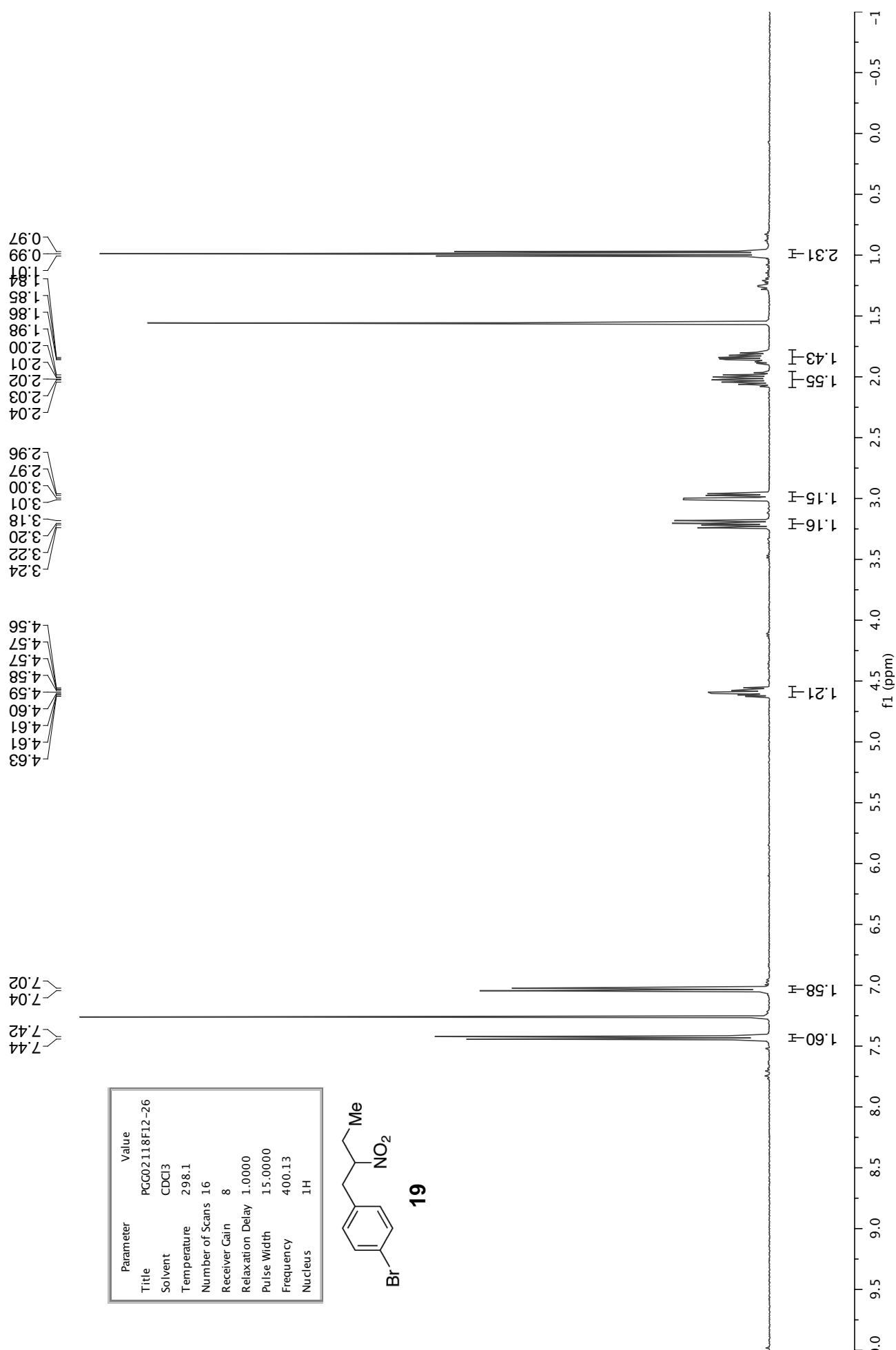


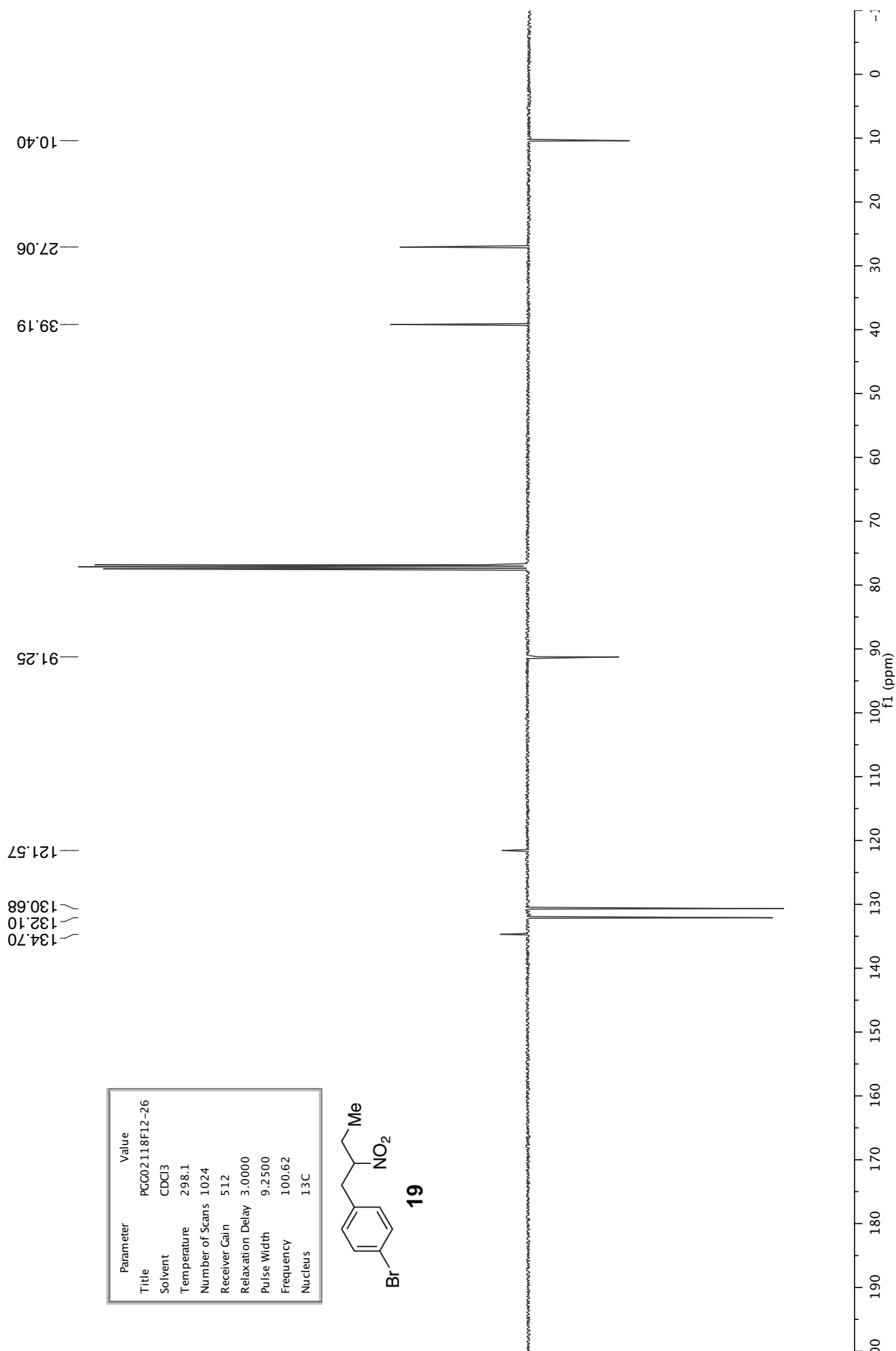




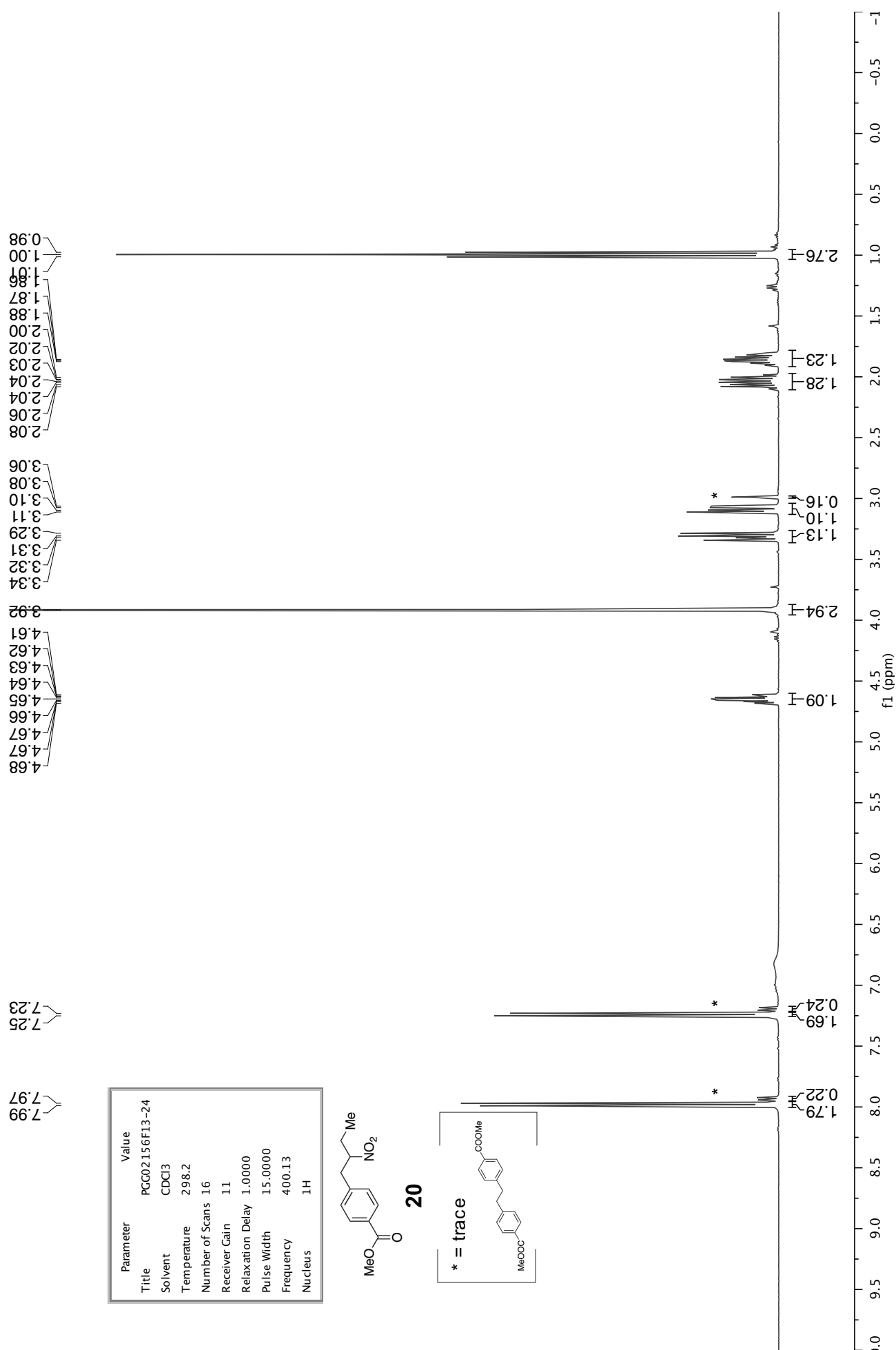


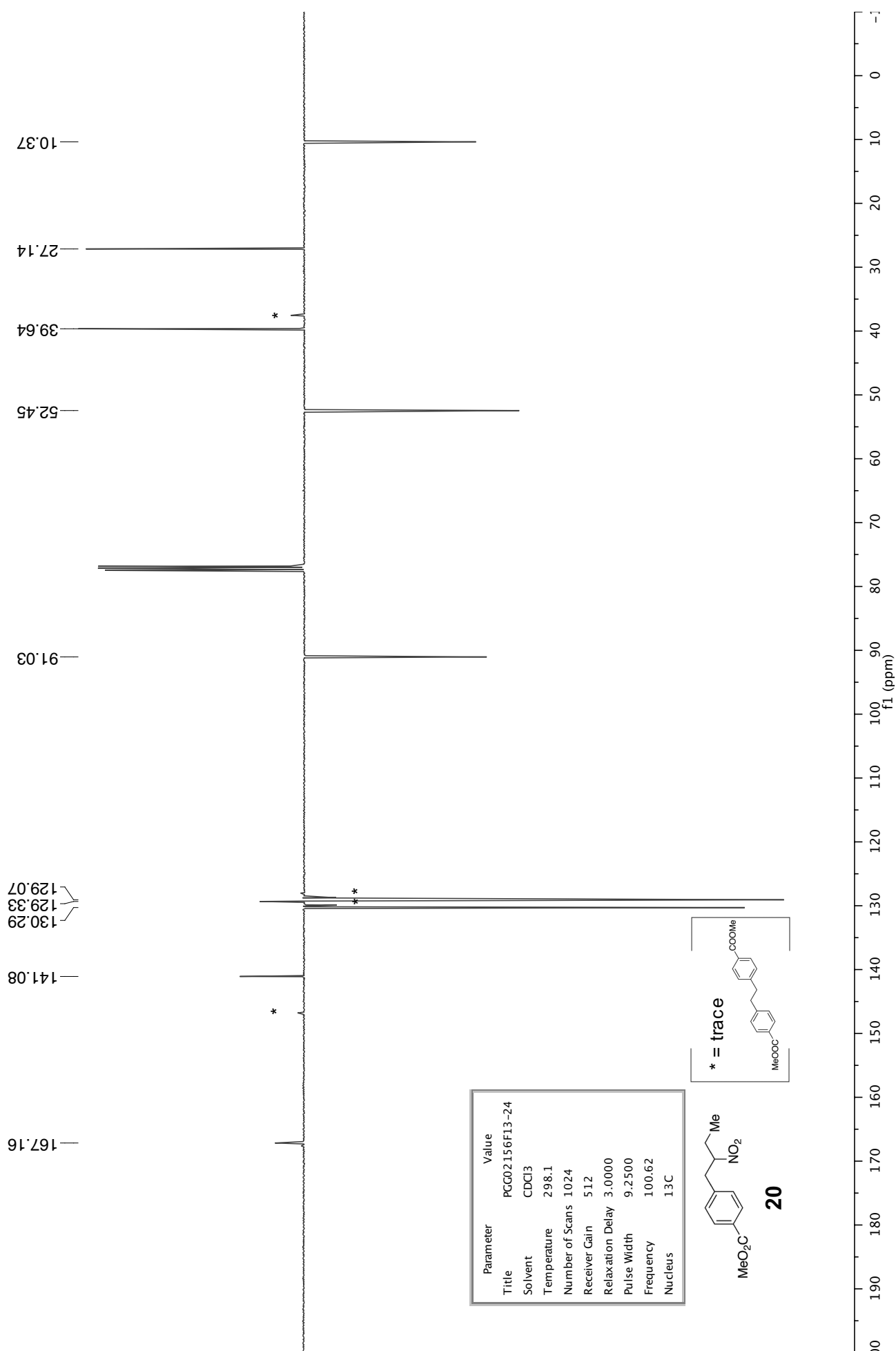


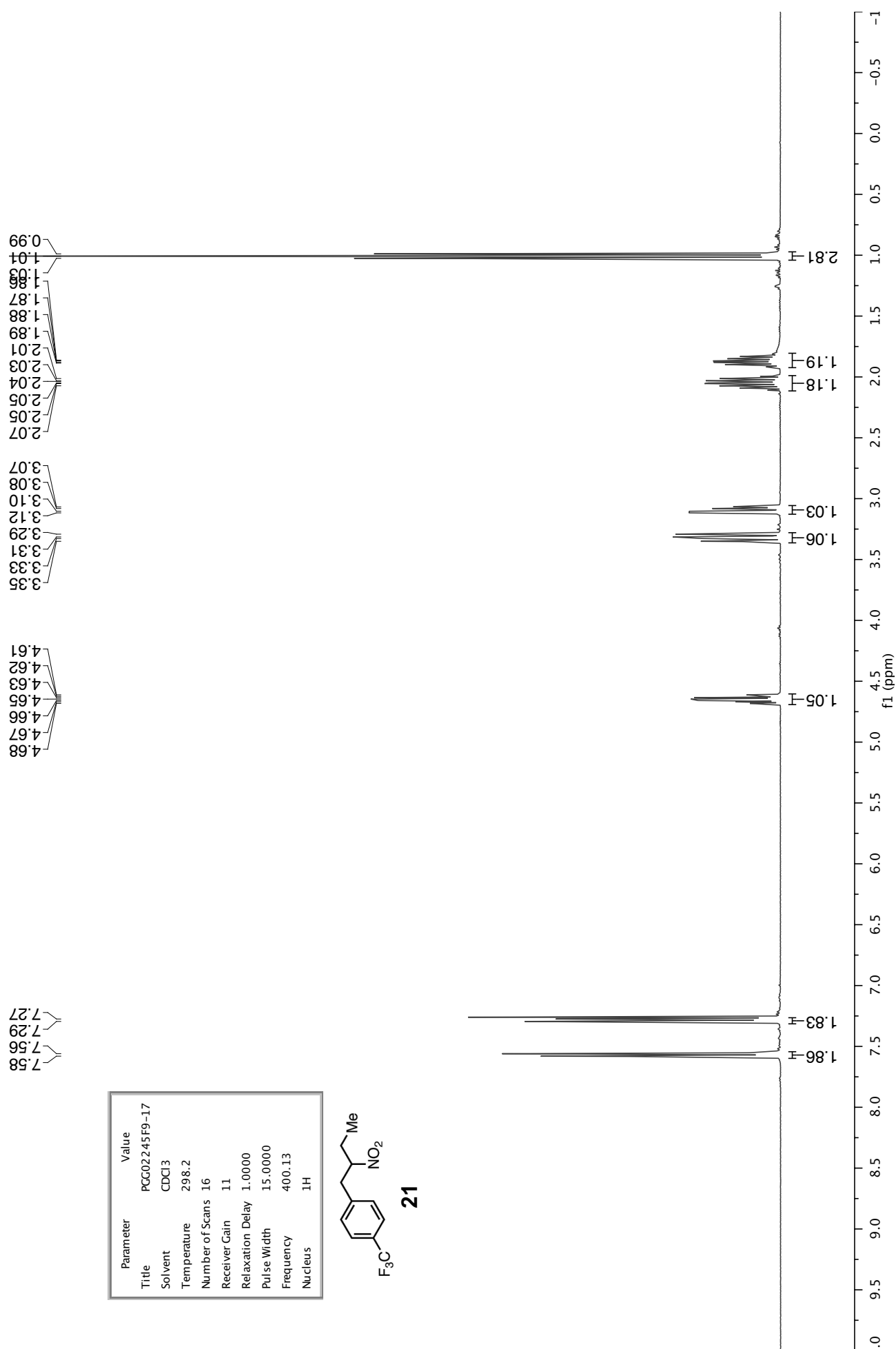


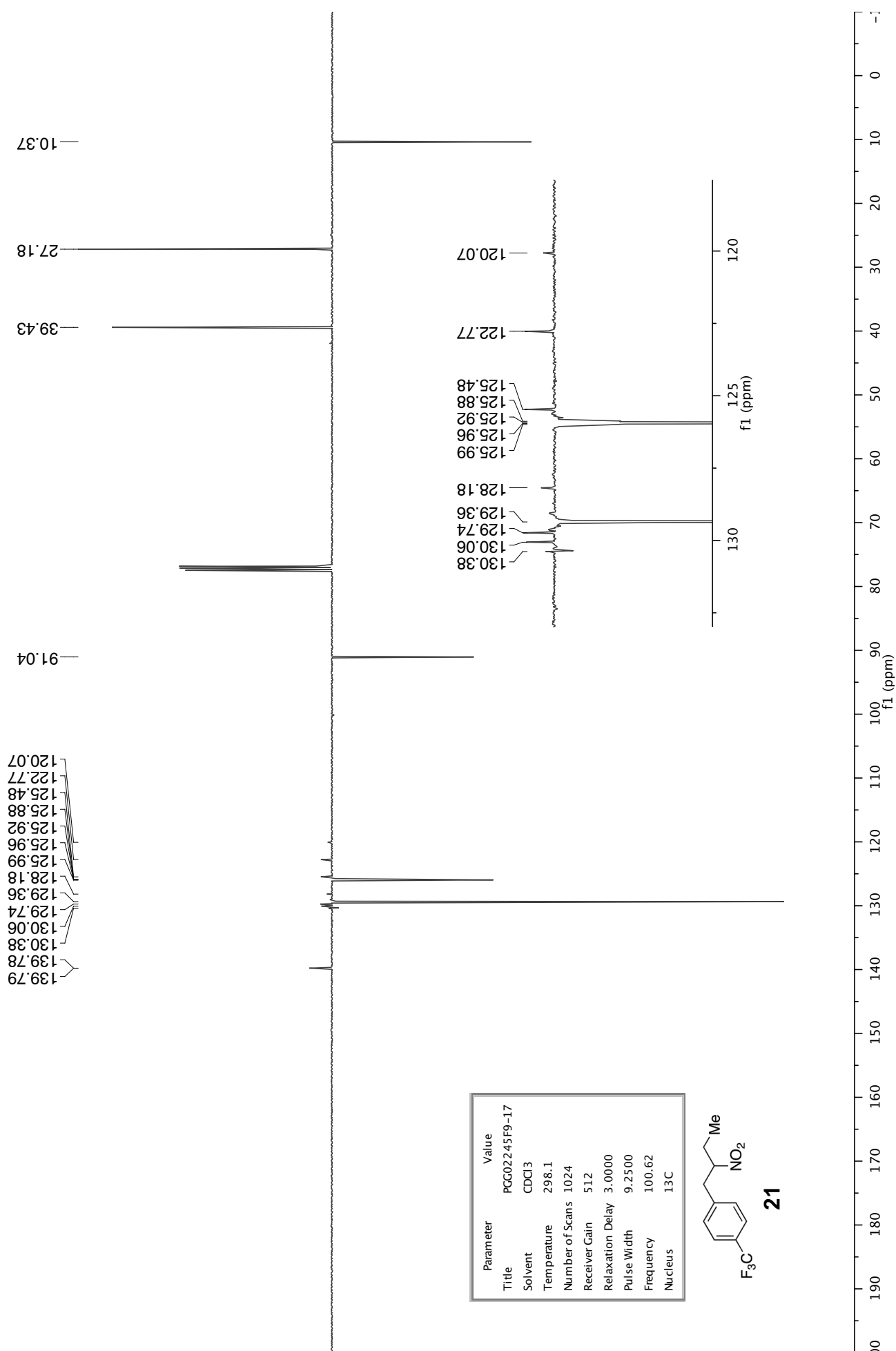






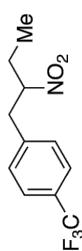






-62.60

Parameter	Value
Title	PGC02245F9-17
Solvent	CDCl <sub>3</sub>
Temperature	298.2
Number of Scans	16
Receiver Gain	645
Relaxation Delay	2.0000
Pulse Width	15.0300
Frequency	376.46
Nucleus	<sup>19</sup> F

**21**

f1 (ppm)

-190

-180

-170

-160

-150

-140

-130

-120

-110

-100

-90

-80

-70

-60

-50

-40

-30

-20

-10

